

Annual Report

2023-2024 | Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur |
Socio-environmental Funds of the Global South



ALIANZA SOCIOAMBIENTAL
FONDOS
DEL SUR

Socio-Environmental Funds of the
Global South



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Editorial

Our Alianza, a dream in the making of four loosely connected funds in opposite corners of this world, is finally a reality. Yes, it is still in the making, building strength, but it has manifested itself in the most beautiful way.

It is now a powerful collective that, in only three years, has connected sixteen funds across the Global South, funding in 50 countries. This is huge by any measurement.

We, members of its first Steering Committee, have been proud to see such progress, not only in the number of members but because of the space it has conquered in the global philanthropic field.

The Alianza translates a wish we all have held dear all along, that local funds, set up by local actors – from socio-environmental justice experts to movement leaders from the most important biodiversity-rich and climate-regulating biomes of this planet – fill a huge gap left for decades by philanthropy.

We see there are four layers to realize truly transformative philanthropic practices – e.g. to fund: (1) large international NGOs that are capable of producing important information and evidence for the field, (2) large national level NGOs that can advocate for bigger social transformations and build policies, (3) middle size, region or state level NGOs that bring the specific biomes dimensions, and (4) local communities that are the most affected by environmental destruction, but also the best placed to offer the most appropriate

solutions due to their intimate relationship with these places. The problem was that funding went only to the first three layers, with the greatest cut staying with the first layer, decreasing from there to stop on the third layer.

Communities, all along, have been the objects of someone else's projects, not the subject of their own solutions. However, environmental protection can only truly be done by the people who live there and have historical knowledge of how to protect these places. Failing to see that has cost our world dearly.





As local actors who have dedicated our whole lives to environmental protection or who are part of these communities that have been left out of the benefits of philanthropy, we could only do one thing: set up our own mechanisms to finance our own movements. The fact that this has been happening all over the world and that we are now coming together only shows how relevant we are in the field.

The Alianza, therefore, crystalizes the strongest message we have for the field, which is that, as humanity, we won't be able to reverse the path of environmental destruction if we don't considerably scale up the volume of funding going to local communities.

And to reach them in the numbers that are necessary to transform the current path of destruction towards revitalization and regeneration, the field needs us. Not only because we are locals, but because we have devised grantmaking systems that are adapted to local realities, needs and demands, and we operate in local currencies, the only one remote, vulnerable, historically excluded communities can deal with.

The past two years have marked a fundamental phase in consolidating Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur as a structured and active network in socio-environmental philanthropy. Since the election of its first Steering Committee, held during the meeting in Bogotá, Alianza has followed a path of internal strengthening and growing political and strategic influence in the global ecosystem. This report celebrates the achievements of this period and marks the transition of leadership to a new Committee, which continues this collective journey.

Building and Structuring the Network

The first Steering Committee played a key role in building the foundation of the network, ensuring that Alianza had a clear path for growth and consolidation. Forming a dedicated team—comprising an executive coordinator, a program and member engagement manager, and a communications professional—was a significant step toward ensuring the network's operational capacity.

Another essential step was developing the strategic plan, which defined the network's priority work areas. Among them, the following stand out:

- ➔ Positioning Alianza as a well-prepared and visible actor capable of influencing international strategic debates, grounded in powerful narratives on socio-environmental funding.
- ➔ Strengthening its members through learning processes and knowledge exchange, promoting a more integrated network ready to face common challenges.

Political Articulation and International Influence

During this period, Alianza established itself as a relevant political actor in the philanthropic field, shaping key messages and promoting discussions on the importance of direct funding for local funds.

Its presence in international events grew significantly, enabling greater participation in global climate, biodiversity, and socio-environmental funding debates.



Strengthening Member Funds and Expanding the Network

Alongside its international advocacy efforts, Alianza invested in strengthening its member funds, encouraging them to incorporate its strategic mission into local and regional contexts.

This commitment resulted in significant network growth—from nine to sixteen member funds—expanding its reach to new African and Southeast Asian regions.

The member meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, was a particularly significant milestone. During this gathering, members reviewed and deepened the network's internal value proposition, reaffirming their commitment to structural transformation in the socio-environmental philanthropy field. It was also an important moment to align strategies and prepare for the challenges ahead.

Passing the Torch

With the first Steering Committee's term coming to an end, we look back on this period with pride and hope. The structure established, the strengthened connections and the achievements accomplished are a testament to Alianza's transformative potential.

Now, with a new Committee assuming leadership, the network continues steadily in its mission to strengthen local funds and advance a more just and rooted philanthropy across the territories of the Global South.

*Casa Socio-Environmental Fund,
Tindzila Fund and Fondo Emerger*



Our Work



Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur | Socio-environmental Funds of the Global South is a pioneering collaboration that unites independent socio-environmental funds, founded and led locally across the Global South.

With an international scope and a focus on socio-environmental justice, Alianza aims to be a key player in the global philanthropy ecosystem, continuously broadening its reach and influence.

Currently, the alliance comprises 16 fund members embracing a geographical diversity that spans Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa, as well as a youth-focused fund operating throughout the Global South, broadening the reach of our efforts and ensuring that resources and knowledge reach diverse contexts and needs.

Each fund operates with its own resource mobilization and distribution structure, ensuring that philanthropic resources, provided in local currencies, reach the most marginalized and vulnerable communities residing in biodiversity-rich ecosystems.

Together, our funds bring vast local expertise and have:



Awarded over **11,200 grants**;



Invested more than **\$98,3 million** directly into communities across the Global South;



Supported initiatives in over **50 countries.**





Vision and Influence

These funds work from the understanding that vast biomes do not adhere to political borders and that traditional peoples and local communities are the primary guardians of these ecosystems. This perspective underlines the importance of locally rooted solutions to global challenges, enhancing visibility for issues that directly affect climate, biodiversity, and social justice.

Our fund members have developed innovative and participatory approaches to support local initiatives and strengthen effective, context-specific philanthropic practices. Among their

essential functions is the support provided to community organizations in implementing their own solutions. This support combines financial incentives—through catalytic grants—with technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and the promotion of peer learning, adapting to the specific needs of each biome and region.

By uniting these funds, Alianza not only fosters the exchange of experiences and mutual support among local initiatives but also amplifies their collective voice to raise awareness on issues with global impact. This coordinated approach

strengthens the implementation of locally embedded solutions and contributes to shifting global philanthropy towards more equitable and just funding models.

Alianza reflects the Global South's diversity, resilience, and values, advancing narratives of socio-environmental justice, decoloniality, and equity in philanthropy.

Meet the Members





Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, constantly reaffirms its commitment to local communities by scaling up support and consolidating its actions on multiple fronts. With over 500 projects supported in 2024 and approximately R\$28.6 million allocated to grassroots initiatives, Casa Fund continues to strengthen its role as one of the leading philanthropic organizations dedicated to socio-environmental protection in Brazil, expanding its impact nationally and internationally. Through project calls Casa Fund addresses critical and urgent themes, focusing on climate resilience, gender equity, community communication, and human rights. These initiatives expands support to vulnerable groups and territories across Brazil's biomes.



The **Environmental Justice Fund (EJF)** is committed to strengthening community efforts to protect the environment, advance environmental rights, and address the climate crisis in South Africa. Recognising that the fight for environmental justice is a key part of the broader struggle for social justice worldwide, EJF believes that those most affected by climate change and environmental injustice are best placed to design and implement responses to environmental harm. EJF provides financial, capacity-strengthening and networking support to community-based organisations using an innovative participatory grant-making model which centres community agency and expertise.



Fondo Acción Solidaria A.C. (FASOL) is a Mexican organization that supports grassroots initiatives for the care, protection, and defense of territories and natural resources, while strengthening local communities' capacity to manage them. FASOL promotes community philanthropy, local solutions, and advocacy for socio-environmental justice, empowering communities to be active participants in sustainable development. As one of the founding members of Alianza, FASOL collaborates with other funds across the Global South to foster resilient, locally-led environmental action.



EMERGER
· Fondo Socioambiental ·

Fondo Emerger is a Colombian fund and an ally of grassroots communities, working to strengthen and amplify their autonomy, knowledge, and capacities in the defense of life, territories, and the commons, through trust and solidarity. It serves as a mechanism to provide financial, political, and administrative support to community-based agendas that protect ecosystems, human rights, and social justice at the local level. The fund responds swiftly to community projects and actions, including emerging local needs such as mobilizations to protect rights. In addition, Fondo Emerger promotes the articulation of organizations and communities into broader networks to foster joint action around key socio-environmental issues. Established in 2020, it has supported 280 grassroots organizations through various calls and has mobilized over US\$1,000,000 in small grants.

Ñeque
FONDO

Fondo Ñeque is a mechanism that provides financial and technical support to socio-environmental innovation initiatives in Ecuador, promoting the leadership of women, youth, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and other vulnerable groups. Through spaces for dialogue and exchange, Ñeque fosters interconnection among diverse actors, strengthening community philanthropy to amplify the reach of local initiatives. It was created to offer a direct and timely response to the needs of communities most affected by climate change and facing exclusion and inequality. Ñeque contributes to strengthening the social fabric and building more just and sustainable realities.



Fondo Socioambiental del Perú autonomously supports community-led projects across the country, with the mission of contributing to Peru's sustainable development by promoting nature conservation, territorial defense, cultural identity, and social justice, through a gender-sensitive, intercultural, and intergenerational approach. Our organization engages in and accompanies grassroots participatory and transformative processes, fostering dialogue and collaborative efforts to help communities implement sustainable and self-managed initiatives and solutions. Its close connection to the needs of historically excluded and vulnerable populations underscores the importance of acting swiftly and providing financial resources to strengthen their actions and capacities.



Fundación Socioambiental Semilla supports community-led solutions in Bolivia to contribute to the environmental conservation of ecosystems. By democratizing access to resources for grassroots groups and small community-based organizations, Semilla strengthens their leadership and organizational capacities to manage natural resources sustainably, promote social inclusion, and enhance civic participation. The foundation is also an ally in the pursuit of climate justice, helping communities build a more equitable and sustainable future.



Fondo Tierra Viva is a space for social innovation that provides strategic support and timely, agile donations to Indigenous, peasant, and Afro-descendant organizations in their efforts to improve their social, economic, and environmental resilience in Central America while they are working on building a region of peace, social justice, and respect for Mother Earth through the creation of networks of respect, trust, and solidarity. As a founding member of the Socio-Environmental Alliance of Global South, Tierra Viva collaborates with other Southern funds, promoting strategies to support rural communities that, from their territories, are on the front lines of addressing global socio-environmental challenges and contributing to real solutions.



FunBEA (Brazilian Fund for Environmental Education) is an independent fund with the mission of decentralising resources for socio-environmental organisations in territories across Brazil. Its mission also includes the production of knowledge based on territorial agendas, aligned with environmental protection, social and climate justice. Based on community philanthropy, it works together with the demands of the communities it supports to qualify its impact and promote inclusive philanthropic policies and practices.



The **Institute for Society, Population and Nature (ISPN)** is a Brazilian civil society organization founded in 1990, committed to strengthening sustainable livelihoods through community leadership. ISPN promotes ecosocial productive landscapes, supporting the production and dissemination of knowledge and advocating for the social and economic inclusion and rights of Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and communities, and family farmers. It also works to raise awareness of their essential role in environmental conservation. A key component of ISPN's strategy is the **Ecos Fund**, which finances community-led initiatives focused on environmental conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. For over 30 years, the Ecos Fund has been connecting people, territories, and opportunities—generating social and economic benefits for communities and nature alike.



The **Pastor Rice Small Grant Fund** was established by the **Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP)** to build on Pastor Delbert Rice's commitment to community-based initiatives and sustainable forest management. The fund supports a wide range of grassroots innovations, strengthening local communities in South and Southeast Asia to manage forest resources and advocate for women's rights and environmental justice. Its goal is to enhance the capacity of forest-dependent communities through participatory knowledge exchange, technical support, and training. The fund documents successful practices and mobilizes resources to support advocacy and local initiatives.



Red Comunidades Rurales is a social organization focused on improving the living conditions and development opportunities of rural populations at risk or facing social exclusion in Argentina. Driven by the belief in uniting efforts across all social sectors, the organization combines resources, talents, and capabilities to support individual, family, and community development in areas of greatest need. Within Red Comunidades Rurales, the Banco de Proyectos Comunitarios Rurales plays a crucial role. This fund provides in-kind resources, financial support, and knowledge to those who lack access to these opportunities. It is a bank that prioritizes the needs of others, directly contributing to the strengthening and empowerment of rural communities.



The **Socio-Environmental Fund Plurales** is an organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening rural and indigenous territorial organizations in Argentina, providing concrete tools and solutions that promote collective power in their territories. Formerly known as Fundación Plurales, the organization transformed into a socio-environmental fund to expand its strategies and focus all efforts on direct support for activist communities and organizations. Through feminist practices of care, transparency, respect, and the mobilization of flexible resources, Plurales accompanies environmental and territorial defenders in their efforts to protect people and the ecosystems essential to life in the Global South.



The Samdhana Institute is a Southeast Asia-based organization supporting the recognition and assertion of the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the region. Samdhana supports the strengthening of community resilience, securing tenure, promoting women, young people and other vulnerable groups in governance and leadership, and the equitable use of natural resources through direct and flexible grantsmaking, capacity development, policy development support and creating spaces for listening and co-creating. As a founding member of Alianza, Samdhana connects with other grassroots organizations and community-based funds from the Global South, sharing knowledge and strategies to drive collective action for environmental and social justice.



The **Tindzila Fund** is an initiative designed to support individuals and community-based organizations in strengthening actions that promote social justice and sustainable development in Mozambique. With an approach focused on local capacity building and empowerment, the Fund aims to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable communities by creating opportunities for beneficiaries to implement innovative projects with lasting positive impacts.



The **Youth Climate Justice Fund (YCJF)** supports young climate leaders globally by providing trust-based funding, resources, and youth-to-youth capacity development. This empowers these leaders to amplify their voices and engage in community-rooted action, sustaining their vision and influence. YCJF believes in collective power and intergenerational collaboration to drive meaningful change and build equitable, sustainable futures. Despite the challenges of social change, youth climate leaders continue to foster transformation and open new paths. A key focus is bridging funders and organizers to provide flexible, impactful support.

Timeline

Three Decades of Collective Action

The journey of Alianza is rooted in the collective construction of an ecosystem of local activist-led funds in the Global South, grounded in relationships of trust, collective learning, experience-sharing, and coordinated action.



1993–2005

Laying the foundations: early funds and alliances

- The creation of Fundação Francisco (FF, Brazil) and the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF, USA) in 1993 marked a pioneering effort to mobilize resources in support of socio-environmental movements in the Global South.
- With the closing of FF, in 2000, GGF established its first local advisory board in Brazil, creating space for activists to shape funding priorities from within their territories. This marked the beginning of a broader strategy to set up local and regional councils, which expanded globally in the following years.
- From 2005 onward, the creation of Casa Socio-Environmental Fund (Brazil) and the Samdhana Institute (Southeast Asia) launched a new phase: the emergence of independent local funds, working regionally while collaborating through the Greengrants Alliance of Funds. During this period, FASOL (Mexico) and Fondo Tierra Viva (Central America) also began their formation processes.

2005–2015

Building a shared identity and regional leadership

- Exchanges between Casa Fund, Samdhana, FASOL and Tierra Viva sparked the development of a unique, culturally grounded identity for Global South funds.

2016–2020

Network expansion and South-South connections

- Casa Fund began sharing its model with activists from across South America, with support from the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), catalyzing connections in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru.
- As a result of in-person visits and strategic meetings, new leaders embraced the idea of creating local funds. Between 2018 and 2019, Fundación Socioambiental Semilla (Bolivia), Fondo Socioambiental del Perú, Fondo Emerger (Colombia), and Fondo Ñeque (Ecuador) were formally established.
- A new connection with Africa emerged, and Mozambique environmentalists visited Casa Fund to learn about its model, which helped set up their local fund, Tindzila. The first online gatherings brought together funds from Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The newly formed funds carried out their first project cycles and began operating independently, while staying connected to the broader network.



2021-2024

Formalization and institutional strengthening

- In December 2021, Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur **was officially launched** as a political and strategic bond of Global South funds.
- In 2022, the alliance began engaging with funders, introducing a narrative centered on ecosystems rather than geographic boundaries as the basis for collective action. These efforts led to strong interest from CLUA Global, resulting in an \$8 million grant to support the nine founding members and structure the alliance.
- In 2023, Alianza held its first in-person gathering in Bogotá, Colombia, where it formalized its mission, vision, objectives, and governance structure. The General Assembly, Steering Committee, Executive Coordination, and Working Groups were established.
- Since its launch, the alliance has welcomed new member funds, expanding its reach and representativeness: Environmental Justice Fund (South Africa), Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund (Southeast Asia), Red Comunidades Rurales (Argentina), Fundo Ecos (Brazil), Youth Climate Justice Fund (Global), Fondo Plurales (Argentina), and Funbea (Brazil).

2024

Growth, presence, and global positioning

- In 2024, Alianza expanded its Executive Coordination team and welcomed new member funds, strengthening its political and territorial presence.
- It held an in-person gathering in Maputo, Mozambique, bringing together members from across the Global South to exchange experiences and collectively develop an action plan for the coming years.
- The alliance also secured new institutional support through a project approved by Porticus and participated in key global events related to climate, biodiversity, and human rights, raising the voice of the Global South in strategic international arenas.



A virtual meeting marked the official launch of the Alianza.

Members Meetings: From Bogotá to Maputo

When looking at Alianza formal structuring and consolidation as an organization with its own identity, two key moments stand out as milestones: the first Alianza Members' Meeting, held in Bogotá in 2023, and the second, in Maputo in 2024.

The Bogotá Meeting, held in 2023, was a pivotal moment in the formation of Alianza and the construction of its institutional identity.

This event brought together representatives of socio-environmental funds from Latin America, Africa, and Asia to establish the foundations of Alianza, defining its governance structure, strategic directions and challenges.



First Alianza Members Meeting, held in Bogotá in 2023.



Members Meeting in Maputo, 2024

Bogotá Meeting, Colombia

April 18–21, 2023

Participants: 19 people took part in the meeting, including representatives from all nine founding members – Casa Fund (Brazil), Samdhana Institute (Southeast Asia), FASOL (Mexico), Fundo Tindzila (Mozambique), Fondo Tierra Viva (Central America), Fondo Socioambiental del Perú (Peru), Fundación Socioambiental Semilla (Bolivia), Fondo Ñeque (Ecuador), and Fondo Emerger (Colombia).

Specific Objectives:

-  Reflect on Alianza’s mission, vision, and objectives.
-  Structure governance by creating the General Assembly of Members and the first Steering Committee (Casa Fund, Fondo Emerger, and Fundo Tindzila).
-  Implement the Executive Coordination and define its role.
-  Establish Working Groups on strategic topics.
-  Define members’ responsibilities and criteria for new participants.
-  Official beginning of the work of the Executive Coordination, with the Brazilian consultant Juliana Tinoco as its first Coordinator.

Maputo Meeting, Mozambique

August 11–14, 2024

Participants: The meeting brought together 15 member funds of Alianza, including six additional funds: Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPN/Ecos Fund, Brazil), Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund (Southeast Asia), Red Comunidades Rurales (Argentina), and Environmental Justice Fund (South Africa), which joined by the end of 2023; and Fondo Plurales (Argentina) and Youth Climate Justice Fund (global), which became part of Alianza in 2024. In total, 32 people, including 29 representatives from the 15 member funds and 3 members of the Executive Coordination, were together.

Specific Objectives:

-  Reinforce the understanding of Alianza’s trajectory and celebrate its recent achievements.
-  Create a collaborative environment for experience-sharing and strengthening connections.
-  Reaffirm Alianza’s purpose, map key actors and spaces of influence, and develop collaborative strategies.
-  Define an action plan and agreements to ensure Alianza’s sustainability, strengthening members’ commitments.

*After Maputo, in December 2024, FunBEA (Brazil) joined Alianza, making it the network’s newest member.

Institutional Development



Alianza's trajectory is built upon more than 30 years of collective efforts among its founding members, which have consolidated theoretical foundations, shared principles, and a common understanding of the role of community funds and the need for a fairer financial architecture for local organizations.

In recent years, we've gone through what I see as the structuring phase of the Alianza Fondos del Sur network – a time when we laid its living foundations. It was a collective process, yet deeply rooted in each territory, shaping our mission, governance, practices, and narratives. It was a time for sowing: establishing principles, strengthening management, nurturing relationships, and building strategies that reflect who we are and the just world we strive to transform. This first phase goes beyond organization – it is the political and emotional foundation of a network that sees itself as a collective force from the Global South.”

JULIANA TINOCO

Executive Coordinator at Alianza

The Alianza is becoming an increasingly important node in the broader emerging architecture of individuals, organizations and networks around that world that are working towards a vision of a good and just society, and of a planet that can nourish and sustain current and future generations. The Alianza provides a critical platform for socio-environmental funds from around the world - that have their roots in social movements and are trusted by and connected to the communities they serve - to come together to strengthen their movement and amplify their collective voice. For the Global Fund for Community Foundations, the Alianza is both a valued thought partner and co-convenor.”

JENNY HODGSON

Executive Director at Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF)





Over the years, Alianza has deepened its institutional development not only by strengthening internal governance and coordination mechanisms, but also by expanding and solidifying strategic alliances with peer organizations, networks, and movements across the Global South and beyond.

This growth reflects a deliberate choice to build power through connection – recognizing that the strength of our work lies in shared agendas, collective influence, and mutual reinforcement.

For me, the only viable path is through alliances. Strengthening institutions remains important, but it is through strong alliances that we can amplify common struggles and shared strategies. Being part of the Alianza Fondos del Sur is a milestone for FunBEA and for our activist efforts in socio-environmental cooperation and education.”

SEMÍRAMIS BIASOLI

Executive Secretary of FunBEA

Alianza was born to strengthen the ecosystem of local, thematic, and activist funds and to position them as strategic actors in philanthropy. These funds already form a solid infrastructure that delivers resources directly and effectively to those leading change on the ground. This alliance is also a political statement: we are part of a movement that believes in collaboration, trusts local leadership, and builds solutions from the territories. We are demonstrating that just philanthropy is possible—one that redistributes power and resources, strengthens networks, and uplifts real experiences sustaining life and rights in deeply unequal contexts.”

CRISTINA ORPHEO

Executive Director at Casa Socio-Environmental Fund

The Executive Team

The Executive Coordination of Alianza plays a key role in implementing the network's strategic plan, developing and strengthening narratives and advocacy strategies that position the organization and its members as key players on the global stage. This includes defining and executing communication and engagement actions, both internal and external, to enhance the visibility of Alianza and its member funds.

In this context, the Coordination is also responsible for knowledge production, facilitating the exchange of experiences and relevant data between Alianza members and the broader community. Furthermore, the Coordination maintains an active role in international events and global forums, positioning Alianza as a platform for political influence and representing the demands and perspectives of the Global South.

Meet the team

- **Juliana Tinoco | Executive Coordinator** – Responsible for leading the implementation of the strategic plan and representing the Alianza in key spaces. Oversees the Members' Assembly, develops network policies and processes, and ensures transparency in decision-making. Builds and strengthens strategic relationships and develops projects. Also supervises budget management, fundraising, and continuous evaluation of the alliance's actions, ensuring institutional strengthening and sustainability. Coordinates the technical team.
- **Clara Daré | Program Lead** – Focuses on the internal and external strengthening of the Alianza by promoting member engagement and knowledge production. Responsibilities include organizing events and meetings, facilitating working groups, conducting research, and systematizing data to inform the network's strategies. Also contributes to building strategic relationships and producing studies and documents on philanthropy in the Global South.
- **Paula Tanscheit | Communications Lead** – Leads internal and external communications for the Alianza. Responsibilities include producing and disseminating strategic content, managing communication channels, coordinating graphic and audiovisual service providers, and aligning strategies with member fund teams. Plays an essential role in event promotion and in developing narratives and positioning materials.

Programmatic Axes

Alianza 'inward-facing' and 'outward-facing'

Alianza's work is guided by two interconnected axes: one focused on internal strengthening through shared learning and trust-building practices, and the other on external influence to elevate the voices and leadership of local activist funds, positioning Alianza as a strategic actor in shifting philanthropic narratives and practices. Together, they reinforce socio-environmental justice both within and beyond the network.



Facing Inwards

The inward axis of Alianza is dedicated to cultivating a strong, interconnected network grounded in mutual trust, shared learning, and collective purpose. Between 2023 and 2024, this commitment took shape through intentional spaces designed to foster dialogue, build relationships, and strengthen the practices of member funds. These efforts were reflected in three main areas of work — regular Monthly Members' Meetings, in-person gatherings like the Members' Meeting in Maputo, and thematic Working Groups.

Monthly Meetings

The Monthly Members' Meetings have become a cornerstone of Alianza's internal life, offering a dynamic space for exchange, learning, and collective reflection across continents and time zones.

Firmly marked in the calendars of members from across the globe and counting with

simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish, the gatherings occur at the very start of the day for members in Baja California, Mexico, and at the end of the night for those in Manila, the Philippines, reflecting the cultural diversity of the network and the commitment of its members.

More than a routine check-in, the Monthly Meetings serve as a living space for the network: a place to share experiences, analyze trends, reflect on current events, and connect with strategic partners.

Topics have ranged from debriefings of key international events to the launch of new publications, as well as open discussions on the day-to-day challenges and strategies of grassroots funding. Throughout 2023 and 2024, Alianza welcomed external guests from organizations such as WINGS, Human Rights Funders Network, and LACLIMA, enriching conversations and expanding perspectives.

These meetings are also a space for ongoing experimentation and collective learning. We continuously test new formats, invite feedback, and explore creative ways of working together across the network.

Members are encouraged to take the lead—proposing topics, facilitating discussions, and sharing ideas they want to develop with their peers. This openness fosters a sense of shared ownership and trust, making the space truly collaborative and responsive to the network’s needs.

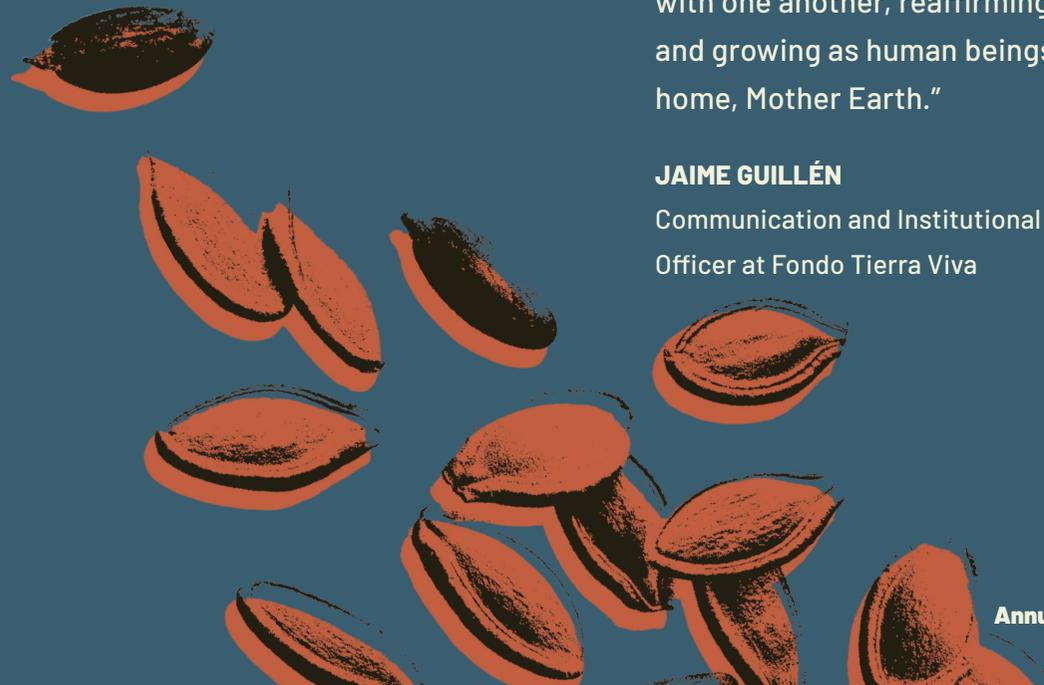
Two meetings stood out during this period. In May 2024, the session focused on the increasing impact of extreme weather events, using the devastating floods in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, as a case study. Members who had witnessed the disaster firsthand shared their experiences, which sparked a follow-up conversation—organized by the members themselves—about how activist funds can respond to emergencies, drawing on examples from within the network.

In July 2024, Alianza launched a major knowledge product for its members: [Navigating the Complexities of Climate and Biodiversity Finance: Toolkit for Learning and Reflecting](#). The session featured a presentation by Ecos Fund, who shared their experience as the National Host Institution of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - Small Grants Program (SGP) in Brazil, alongside contributions from external guests. This meeting exemplified the role of the Monthly Meetings in not only sharing knowledge, but also inspiring action and innovation across the network.

The Alianza’s monthly meetings enable ongoing exchange among member funds, fostering continuous innovation in the search for solutions to socio-environmental challenges. These are peer-learning spaces enriched by experiences from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, serving as a true example of South-South cooperation. They are moments we look forward to and strive to contribute to each month — a way of showing our commitment to this network where we weave dreams of socio-environmental justice together, while sharing news, pushing forward joint initiatives, standing in solidarity with one another, reaffirming our mission, and growing as human beings in our shared home, Mother Earth.”

JAIME GUILLÉN

Communication and Institutional Development
Officer at Fondo Tierra Viva



Members' Meeting - Maputo

From August 11 to 14, 2024, Alianza held its second in-person Members' Meeting in Maputo, Mozambique. The event brought together 29 participants from 15 member funds, representing 14 countries across five continents, in a powerful moment of connection, collaboration, and strategic alignment.

The agenda was jointly developed by the Executive Coordination and the host fund, Tindzila, with the support of a facilitation team, and was designed to reflect the diversity and complexity of the network. This gathering marked not only a continuation of the collective journey started in Bogotá in 2023, but also a moment of maturation—both in the way the network organizes itself and in how it defines its role in the world.

Over the course of four days, members worked together to:

- ➔ Reaffirm Alianza's mission and collectively shape a shared vision for the coming years;
- ➔ Prioritize strategies and define an action plan to advance that vision;
- ➔ Debate challenges and opportunities in areas such as Communications, Data, and Governance;
- ➔ Engage in peer-led open spaces, which led to the articulation of new initiatives and working groups.

The gathering opened with a field visit to a community-led agroecological initiative supported by Tindzila, grounding the group in the reality and impact of grassroots work in Mozambique. This spirit of connection with territory and lived experience informed the entire event.

A key moment was the Members' Assembly, where the Executive Coordination presented the main activities carried out during the year, along with the executed budget. The session reaffirmed the importance of transparency and shared responsibility in Alianza's governance model.

A defining feature of this gathering was the role played by open space sessions, where members proposed themes based on their own interests and challenges. Topics ranged from grassroots emergency response to participation in major global events like COP16 (Biodiversity) and COP29 (Climate). These conversations directly informed the creation of new initiatives, including the Database Working Group and coordination efforts for member engagement in upcoming international advocacy spaces.



Members' Meeting in Maputo, Mozambique

This gathering was also a space of deep institutional learning. The experience of organizing a fully international event—coordinated between two teams based in Mozambique and Brazil, five time zones apart—was both challenging and transformative.

From this process, Alianza developed a Best Practices Guide for future in-person meetings, capturing lessons around logistics, communication, and collaborative planning.

Clara Daré, who led the production of the gathering from the Executive Coordination team, reflected during the opening session:

Organizing this meeting was, for us, a true laboratory of collective construction. We were operating across two continents, facing very concrete logistical challenges, but it was precisely in that context that we put Alianza's core values into practice: trust, collaboration, and creativity. We came out of this experience better prepared to grow as a network."

The gathering closed with a collective experience: Funding the Planet's Guardians, a

board game developed by Alianza to simulate real-world dilemmas faced by communities in the Global South (see for more information further below). Through the game, participants reflected on the role of local activist funds and the values that guide their action—solidarity, adaptability, and trust in grassroots solutions.

The creation of the Alianza represented a courageous step by all its members toward pursuing a common goal while maintaining and valuing their diverse approaches — turning that diversity into the main strength of their collaboration. The Annual Members' Meeting in Maputo, hosted by Fundo TINDZILA in 2024, reaffirmed the importance of the Alianza in embodying the principles of inclusion and transparency in community-led development initiatives. Above all, as the starting point for reflections on the platform's future governance mechanisms and strategies, the Maputo gathering was a key opportunity to consolidate the growth of the Alianza as a whole, as well as of Fundo TINDZILA and other individual funds."

ALDA SALOMÃO

Executive Director of Fundo Tindzila

As one of the newer members of the Alianza, participating in my first General Assembly in Maputo was a milestone. The experience validated for us at Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund the strategic value of being part of this amazing network. Finding commonalities with other members, and sharing the same dedication and commitment to amplify community voices through advocacy and to channel resources to transform community initiatives and visions into reality is truly motivating. Being funding facilitators for the grassroots is important and comes with a huge responsibility. It opens up opportunities to contribute to powerful transformations. We are currently one of just two members from Southeast Asia, and we look forward to growing alongside our new friends from Latin America and Africa. It's only been a year now, but it already feels like a community. We are proud to be part of the Alianza".

FEMY PINTO

Executive Director of the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Program/Pastor Rice

[Read more about here](#)

Working Groups

The Alianza Working Groups are strategic initiatives formed to strengthen the network through collaboration and the development of collective solutions. Each group has a specific focus, aimed at enhancing Alianza's organizational capacity and that of its members.

Database Working Group

Created shortly after the Members' Gathering in Maputo, the Database Working Group emerged in response to the strong interest expressed by members in improving how Alianza generates, organizes, and uses information. This was the first working group to experiment with co-leadership, combining the perspectives of the Executive Coordination and a member fund. This model encouraged greater engagement and collective responsibility.

Composed of participants from Latin America, Africa, and Asia, the group was formed with a regional lens, aiming to ensure that data strategies reflect the diversity of contexts within the network.

Its main goal is to rethink Alianza's data practices in a way that supports both internal planning and external communication and advocacy.

One of the first steps was a critical review of Alianza's existing data collection forms, identifying areas for improvement and proposing a more integrated and accessible structure. The group highlighted the need to simplify complex questions, incorporate multilingual clarity, and standardize terms through the creation of a shared glossary. Suggestions included developing a unified platform with conditional functionalities and automations to facilitate completion and streamline information processing.

The group also engaged in peer exchange, with members sharing their own data collection tools and methodologies. This allowed for a comparative analysis of formats and approaches already in use, aiming to design a shared form that builds on existing practices rather than creating new demands.

By the end of the reporting period, the group had reached a set of shared understandings around the needs, challenges, and opportunities related to data within the network. These foundations will guide the next phases of work, including the development of the database and the definition of indicators, aligned with Alianza's values and collective purpose.

“The creation of the Data Working Group marked an important step for Alianza: it was when we began to collectively reflect on how to systematize, analyze, and share the information we generate. I see data management as a way to strengthen our identity as a network – to see ourselves as a collective body, rather than as isolated funds. Moreover, by sharing data, we inspire each other, identify innovations, and expand our impact. It's a path that requires care and trust, but one with enormous transformative potential.”

FACUNDO IBARLUCÍA

Executive Director, Rural Communities Projects Bank of the Red Comunidades Rurales, plays a co-leadership role in the DBWG.

Communication Working Group (CWG)

The Communication Working Group (CWG) was conceived during the initial planning phases of Alianza, following the Members' Meeting in Bogotá, and was designed as an initiative to strengthen Alianza's collective communication capacity and build a unified narrative for the network. From the outset, the group has served as a platform for developing Alianza's positioning strategy vis-à-vis external audiences and a space for member funds to strengthen their communication strategies.

Designed as a channel for collaboration, the CWG allows for the exchange of knowledge and practices between funds with varying levels of experience and capacity while simultaneously amplifying the collective impact of the network's communication efforts.

The group focuses on developing coordinated messaging, joint campaigns, and strategies that align with Alianza's values and objectives while increasing visibility for the network and its member funds. Participants from diverse funds, particularly in Latin America and Asia, contribute regional perspectives that enrich the group's collaborative process and further strengthen the communication framework for the entire network.

G We recognize communication as a powerful tool to transform narratives and amplify community voices. That's why we joined the Alianza's Communications Working Group (WG), a space that goes beyond technical matters—it's a political space where we can make visible the initiatives, knowledge, and proposals emerging from territories across the Global South. We believe that communication is not only about dissemination, but also about building connections, fostering mutual recognition, and strengthening organizing processes. In this sense, we are both excited and committed to the collective work of this WG, confident that communication is also a path toward building socio-environmental justice."

ALEJANDRO MEJÍA SARABIA

Communications Officer at FASOL

Facing Outwards

The strength of Alianza's internal connections serves as the foundation for its outward-facing work. Built on trust, collaboration, and shared learning, Alianza positions itself as a strategic platform for advancing local leadership and strengthening community philanthropy. With a commitment to shifting global narratives, Alianza amplifies the voices of local communities—placing them where they belong: at the center of decision-making, leadership, and socio-environmental solutions.

Relationship and Influence

Alianza extends its reach beyond the network by actively engaging in key global discussions, leveraging collective narratives to influence the international philanthropic landscape.

Through active participation in major forums, it amplifies the voices of local communities and the funds that support them, ensuring their perspectives are heard and acknowledged in spaces where they have historically been underrepresented.

“Alianza was born from a collective dream—to draw attention to a unique kind of philanthropy rooted in the Global South. When we came together, it was like turning on a light that revealed our relevance to conservation philanthropy. Together, we can demonstrate a strategic position and an unmatched scale that ensures the inclusion of those with the deepest knowledge of caring for biodiversity. Our decades-long relationships of trust and understanding of our territories place us in this unique position. Alianza offers us a platform to engage with peers worldwide and to show that what needs to be done within our countries cannot be done from the outside. Only by working together can we achieve the scale of environmental protection needed to continue living on this planet.”

MARIA AMÁLIA SOUZA

Founder and Director of Strategic Alliances and Partnerships at Casa Socio-Environmental Fund



28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28)

Dubai, United Arab Emirates – November 2023

Alianza's presence at COP28 aimed to spotlight the urgency of building more inclusive and equitable climate finance mechanisms. Our Executive Coordinator, Juliana Tinoco, participated in the official side-session "Climate Policy and Financing with a Gender Perspective: From Barriers to Practical Solutions", where she addressed historical injustices and structural challenges embedded in the current climate finance system. We advocated for a funding model that strengthens the communities most affected by the climate crisis, recognizing their knowledge, leadership, and central role in advancing sustainable solutions.

[Read more here](#)



28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28)

Funding Futures Festival – Human Rights Funders Network

Tbilisi, Georgia – April 2024

Alianza participated in the Funding Futures Festival to reinforce the connection between socio-environmental justice and human rights in philanthropy. During the event, Alianza launched Funding the Planet's Guardians, a gamified activity that engaged funders in reflecting on the challenges of ensuring resources reach the areas most affected by the climate and biodiversity crises.

[Read more here](#)



Funding Futures Festival – Human Rights Funders Network

F20 Climate Solutions Forum 2024 and Philanthropy Week

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – June 2024

As part of the preparatory events for the G20 in Brazil, Alianza took part in the Philanthropy Week and the F20 Climate Solutions Forum to bring local funds and community philanthropy to the center of global discussions. Alianza co-organized the side session “Local Funds and Community Philanthropy – the financial arm of communities in the Global South”, highlighting the strategic role of activist local and regional funds in climate finance architecture.

[Read more here](#)



F20 Climate Solutions Forum 2024 and Philanthropy Week

“It was wonderful to come to Brazil and to have the opportunity to connect in person with other funds. One of the biggest themes that struck me throughout the week was the different ways people spoke about the role of philanthropy. These debates raise important questions about where local funds like ours stand – clearly in a different position from traditional philanthropy.”

LISA CHAMBERLAIN

Executive Director, Environmental Justice Fund



The opportunity to bring members together in Brazil led to a visit to a key community initiative in Rio de Janeiro – the Maré Network (Rede da Maré).

NYC Climate Week

New York City, USA – September 2024

Alianza seized the opportunity to bring much-needed attention to funding climate action and locally led development. We joined two strategic panels alongside key partners such as WINGS, the Global Fund for Community Foundations, GivingTuesday, Adeso, NEAR, and others, and co-hosted the event “Localizing Climate Funding – a Happy Hour” with Proximate and Casa Fund to spark conversations around how to channel climate finance directly to the communities leading climate solutions.



Maria Amália Souza representing Alianza on a panel at NYC Climate Week.

Partnering with Alianza for the Climate Week Happy Hour was a real highlight for us at Proximate. The event created a rare space where funders and grassroots leaders could connect informally and build trust across global contexts. Alianza’s leadership in bridging international philanthropy with community-rooted voices came through powerfully, and the evening sparked several conversations that have continued long after. We’re proud to have co-created something that felt both joyful and generative.”

BEN WROBEL

Editor & Co-Founder of Proximate



Opening remarks by Juliana Tinoco (Alianza) and Ben Wrobel (Proximate) at the “Localizing Climate Funding – Happy Hour.”

2024

16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16)

Cali, Colombia – October 2024

Alianza's participation spanned multiple events, always with the mission to highlight themes shaping the future of biodiversity conservation funding. We hosted the panel "Funding the Planet's Guardians: Territorial, Local Funds, Activists, and Funding for Nature Protection from Communities in the Territories" in collaboration with Casa Fund, emphasizing the role of community-led solutions. Alianza also had a stand in the Green Zone, which became a hub for exchanges between our member funds and community organizations. Additionally, we hosted a networking Happy Hour, bringing together partners and representatives from Alianza's member funds for meaningful connections in an informal setting.

[Read more here](#)

At Fondo Socioambiental del Perú, we deeply value the spaces for collaboration with Alianza Fondos del Sur, which have allowed us to reaffirm a shared vision around the defense of life, territories, and climate justice from the perspective of peoples and communities. We are committed to sustaining a critical, constructive, and collective approach, and to building a transformative cooperation among peers – grounded in trust, mutual care, and the creation of alternatives from below, from our South. Participating in the Biodiversity COP in Cali in 2024 was a key opportunity to make concrete proposals visible from our local realities and knowledge, reinforcing the need to place territorial voices at the center of global debates."

LILYAN DELGADILLO

Executive Director of the Fondo Socioambiental del Perú



Alianza at COP16. Photo: Catalina Olaya/MMA)

The creation of hundreds of dialogue spaces among environmental organizations during COP16 enabled the unification of efforts and the collective development of proposals to help achieve established goals through innovative and effective strategies. Grounded in community perspectives, these dialogues fostered the exchange of experiences, analyses, and ideas, leading to a shared environmental advocacy agenda. This process strengthened cooperation and coordination among diverse organizations and environmental collectives to address global challenges related to biodiversity and the climate crisis in a more effective and unified way."

JUAN CAMILO MIRA SANCHEZ

Coordinator of Fondo Emerger



Alianza's happy hour at COP16.

2024

29th United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP29

Baku, Azerbaijan – November 2024

At COP29, Alianza brought the voice of local communities to the center of climate finance debates. In partnership with Casa Socio-Environmental Fund and the Comuá Network, it co-hosted the official UNFCCC side event “Financing Solutions from the Ground Up”, highlighting the strategic role of local funds from the Global South in driving community-rooted solutions. Alianza also co-organized “Funding the Planet’s Guardians” with the Comuá Network at the Regional Climate Foundations Pavilion—an interactive session that combined a gamified experience with a collective reflection on the barriers and possibilities for transforming the climate finance system.

[Read more here](#)

Through our partnership with Alianza, we have emphasized the strategic imperative of resourcing Global South leadership in climate action. Our presence at COP29 – alongside Alianza, peer funds, and allied networks – reinforced the need for more direct, flexible, and trust-based funding for community-rooted young leaders addressing the climate crisis at its frontlines. Strengthening and diversifying financial flows to the region is essential to unlocking the full potential of locally led solutions. Together, we are advancing a shift in philanthropic practice toward equity, trust, and long-term impact.”

JOSHUA AMPONSEM

Co-Director at the Youth Climate Justice Fund



Photo: Green Africa Youth Organization

In addition to its institutional presence at major international events, Alianza has traveled the world – both through the participation of its members in global forums representing the network, and through the network’s presence alongside its members, supporting local initiatives. Some examples include:

Innovation and Local Commitment: The Results of the Ñeque Fund in Ecuador

Quito, Ecuador - June 2024

Fondo Ñeque organized an accountability event for local stakeholders in Ecuador, where they also opened a space for dialogue on community philanthropy. Alianza was present, bringing an international perspective, and had the opportunity to visit the Agroecological Farms of Calacalí, a project supported by the fund.

The participation of both the Executive Coordination of the Alianza and member funds – such as Fondo Emerger (Colombia), Fondo Socioambiental Perú, and Fondo Semilla (Bolivia) – was crucial. This collaboration strengthened strategic connections, contributed a regional perspective on community philanthropy, highlighted the importance of partnerships, and enabled the exchange of knowledge on best practices in community project management.”

DANIELA CEVALLOS

Technical Director, Ñeque Fund

African Philanthropy Network Assembly 2024

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - November 2024

Alianza was represented by Maria Amalia Souza (Casa Socio-Environmental Fund) and Alda Salomão (Tindzila Caminhos Sustentáveis) at the gathering of African philanthropic leaders. The assembly fostered exchanges on locally rooted philanthropy and its role in advancing development across the continent.



African Philanthropy Network Assembly 2024

Proudly Members of WINGS

Alianza is a member of **WINGS**, a global network comprising over 200 support and development organizations dedicated to maximizing philanthropy's potential as a driver of social progress. The network includes a diverse community of change agents, such as philanthropic organizations, networks, funders, academics, and other strategic partners from 58 countries. Joining WINGS strengthens Alianza's commitment to promoting a more just and effective philanthropic ecosystem, expanding our collaboration and influencing global funding practices.

“The Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur is a unique actor in the philanthropy ecosystem, and we at WINGS are privileged to be partnering with the alliance and its members in our shared work of promoting philanthropy for community-based initiatives. The Alianza's ability to bring together and connect existing local funds, and support the emergence of new actors, deeply enhances the ecosystem and ensures the vital voices of communities are being heard in wider philanthropy.”

BENJAMIN BELLEGY

Executive Director at WINGS



Community Philanthropy at the G20

Alianza participated in the Sustainable Development Working Group (GT9) within the Civil 20 (C20), a civil society engagement group involved in the G20 process. Our efforts helped secure the inclusion of the term “community philanthropy” in the final recommendations sent to G20 negotiators, emphasizing the importance of communities in sustainable development. This outcome reflects the active participation of Alianza's members in critical decision-making processes that define essential terms for philanthropy within influential political forums.

[Read more here](#)

“Participating in the Philanthropy and Sustainable Development working group (GT9) of the C20 was an invaluable opportunity to learn how to act in a coordinated and strategic way on the global stage. Standing alongside fellow funds such as Comuá Network and Alianza underscored for me the importance of occupying these spaces with our agenda—community philanthropy and the central role of communities in transforming their territories. Our presence helped ensure that the GT9 recommendations to the G20 accurately reflected this reality. I increasingly recognize how essential it is to influence the logic of resource distribution through active listening, strategic coordination, and a steadfast focus on socio-environmental and climate justice in the Global South.” – **Cristiane Azevedo**, Executive Director of the Society, Population, and Nature Institute (ISPN)/Ecos Fund, actively participated in the GT9 process and was present at the official delivery of the recommendations to the Presidency of the Republic, representing ISPN and the two networks to which it belongs – the Comuá Network and Alianza.”

Communication & Knowledge

Communication is a key cross-cutting pillar in strengthening Alianza, both internally and externally. The communication approach not only aims to build a unified narrative but also to create content that supports and amplifies Alianza's presence in the international philanthropy field. The production and dissemination of knowledge are essential to sustain the organization's work and to influence global policies, funding mechanisms, and philanthropic practices that directly impact communities in the Global South.

Communication approach

Alianza's communication approach is guided by a commitment to clarity, transparency, and inclusivity. The aim is to connect with diverse audiences within the global philanthropic community and ensure that the messages reflect the complexity of socio-environmental issues and the diversity of contexts and the representativeness of local voices.

Alianza directs its messaging toward a strategic audience that includes organizations and funds with similar missions, particularly those operating in the Global South; alliances and networks engaged in socio-environmental and philanthropic efforts; and donors, including international foundations and funds that are essential to scaling up Alianza's initiatives.

The objective is to increase Alianza's recognition as a leading reference in Global South philanthropy, enhance the visibility of its member funds, and attract new members to strengthen its collective influence.

All content is bilingual (English and Spanish) to ensure accessibility and broader reach within a diverse audience. Graphic and audiovisual materials focus on diversity, using textures, collages, and human figures to reflect the richness of contexts and themes such as biodiversity, gender, and indigenous issues. This visual approach is always aligned with key areas

of work, ensuring that the identity is clear and adaptable to different focal points of action.

Communicating Alianza's work is a detailed process. It goes far beyond simply sharing our actions—it's a deep responsibility to build a strong, collective narrative that amplifies the voices of our member funds and the communities they serve, expanding the reach of the knowledge they generate and the approaches they champion. At the same time, it's about strengthening a narrative that challenges traditional philanthropy structures, raises awareness, and translates our messages in ways that drive the change we seek to minimize power imbalances. Every article, LinkedIn post, campaign, and effort to build our presence in key spaces is an opportunity to reinforce this narrative and reaffirm our values."

Paula Tanscheit, Communication Lead at Alianza, reflects on the depth and responsibility of communicating Alianza's work.

Channels and Products

LinkedIn

Stands out as the primary platform for disseminating actions, campaigns, and messages. This platform is considered the most suitable network to engage with strategic partners. Alianza's presence on LinkedIn is essential for consolidating authority and influence in global philanthropy. Additionally, the website serves as a central repository for knowledge, news, manifestos, and other materials, acting as a meeting point for those interested in following Alianza's actions and insights.

[Join Alianza on LinkedIn to stay informed and engaged](#)

External and Internal Newsletters

Regular newsletters serve as key channels for engagement and information sharing. The external newsletter, sent quarterly, offers a direct connection with Alianza's audience, curating the most relevant updates from member funds and highlighting Alianza's initiatives. It provides a broader perspective on the network's collective efforts and strategic developments. The internal newsletter, sent

monthly, is designed to strengthen ties among members. Building on the discussions from monthly meetings, it serves as both a follow-up tool and a shared space for exchanging content, celebrating achievements, addressing challenges, and fostering connections. In addition to strategic updates, it also features regional and cultural insights that reinforce the sense of community within Alianza.

[Subscribe to Alianza's newsletter here](#)

Internal Communication Toolkits

The Alianza Communication Toolkit is a strategic resource designed to support member funds in effectively communicating about Alianza while also strengthening their own communication planning and digital campaigns. By providing clear guidelines and practical tools, the toolkit helps funds enhance their visibility, refine their messaging, and maximize their impact across different audiences.

For each major event where multiple funds participate, the toolkit is tailored into a dedicated campaign, ensuring the dissemination of a strong and cohesive message. It covers essential elements such as Alianza's key

messages, communication style, visual identity, and audience engagement strategies. It also includes tips for capturing impactful images and videos, social media content suggestions, and adaptable campaign strategies. With this evolving resource, Alianza reinforces its presence on the global stage and also the capacity of its members to shape narratives and drive change.

 The communications toolkit provided by the Alianza for use at COP29 was extremely helpful, as it guided us in planning and ensuring our participation in the various forums. It included the full COP agenda with dates, times, locations, organizers, and detailed information about the Alianza – such as achieved impacts, key messages to share, target audiences, outreach strategies, and more. It supported coordination with other strategic partners and demonstrated how local funds are advancing mechanisms for resource mobilization and the strengthening of local capacities.”

RUTH VARGAS

Vice President of Fundación Socioambiental Semilla

 **Articles**

Alianza's articles, published on the organization's website and shared across platforms like LinkedIn and the newsletter, serve as a dynamic space to narrate the network's journey, share key insights, and reflect on pivotal moments. Through these pieces, Alianza documents experiences at global events and brings forward the discussions shaping philanthropy and community-led funding in the Global South.

More than just event recaps, these articles capture the milestones that define Alianza's growth, offering reflections on strategic themes, emerging challenges, and shared priorities among member funds. They provide a window into the connections built, the lessons carried forward, and the critical conversations shaping the field—ensuring that Alianza's presence in different spaces translates into knowledge, collaboration, and strengthened advocacy.

 **Media and partners**

Strategic communication partnerships and media outreach are valuable tools in Alianza's efforts to amplify its message and expand its reach. Rather than working in isolation, Alianza actively seeks collaborations with aligned organizations, networks, and media outlets to ensure its voice resonates within and beyond the philanthropy sector. These partnerships are valuable in helping to spread Alianza's core messages and connect the network with new audiences that might not yet be familiar with our work.

Expanding media presence and communication alliances allows the network to extend its influence and engage in meaningful conversations with key actors. Member funds also play a crucial role in this effort, leveraging their regional connections to bring Alianza's narratives into relevant platforms and media channels worldwide.

Knowledge Building

Through research, mapping, and collaborative initiatives, Alianza fosters a dynamic exchange of knowledge among its member funds, recognizing that learning is a two-way process. By developing resources, facilitating peer learning, and engaging in knowledge production, the network continuously works to generate knowledge that enriches the understanding of community philanthropy, funding flows and mechanisms, and the wisdom emerging from the territories and communities it supports.

Climate and Biodiversity Finance Toolkit

Alianza developed the “Navigating the Complexities of Climate and Biodiversity Finance: Toolkit for Learning and Reflecting”, a tool to help member funds and partners navigate the complexities of climate and biodiversity finance. Designed as an accessible and practical resource, the Toolkit explores key concepts, financing mechanisms, and strategic approaches, offering concrete examples to guide funders, managers, and technical experts in this field.

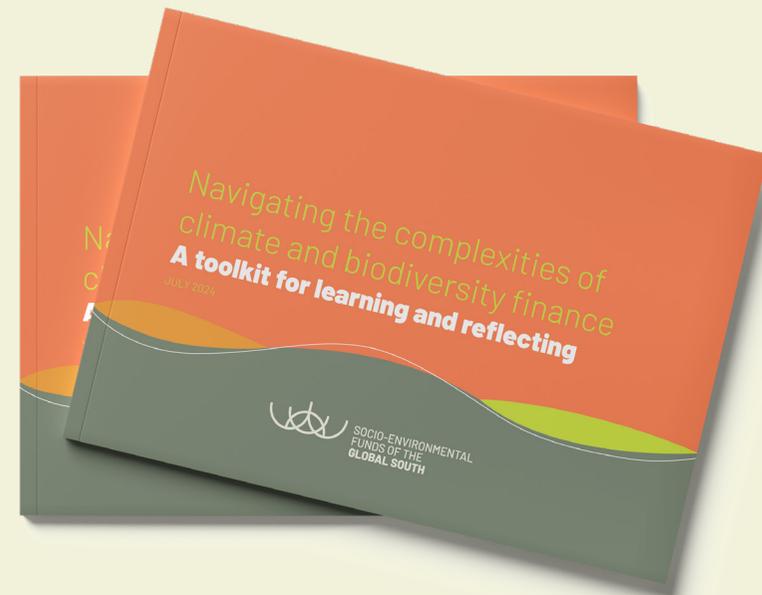
More than a reference guide, the Toolkit empowers public officials, private entities, and civil society actors to engage more effectively with climate finance, breaking down technical jargon and demystifying funding flows.

[Access the full document here.](#)

“The climate and biodiversity financing landscape can be incredibly daunting. The great value of this toolkit lies in serving as a learning compass for those seeking to bring the complex multilateral regime into the daily practice of organizations and foundations in the Global South. The toolkit not only equips us with the specialized vocabulary and historical context we need, but also empowers us to engage in global debates with confidence and clarity. It enables more strategic and equitable decision-making to support solutions led by the communities most affected by the climate crisis.”

PAULINA CHO

Climate Strategist and lead researcher behind this publication



Funding the Planet's Guardians - A Gamified Journey

Alianza, in partnership with **Utópika Estúdio Criativo** developed “Funding the Planet's Guardians”, an interactive game designed to offer a unique perspective that immerses participants in the realities faced by community-based movements across Global South territories. Through dynamic, scenario-based challenges inspired by real-world contexts, players experience firsthand the barriers and opportunities in accessing and distributing funding.

Accompanying Alianza at key global events, this strategic tool introduces an alternative, hands-on learning model that challenges conventional, formalized discussions on philanthropy. By blending engagement with critical reflection, the game highlights the essential role of activist funds in strengthening socio-environmental justice.

Recognized for its innovative approach, Funding the Planet's Guardians was awarded the **Design for a Better World Award**,

celebrating creativity-driven solutions for a more just and sustainable world. Utópika Estúdio Criativo, received the Curupira Trophy 2024 (photo on the right) for the best project in the concept category.

“Alianza listens deeply and is genuinely open to thinking beyond traditional formats. In developing the game, Alianza actively contributed to refining the concept and dynamics, while Utópika created the physical structure, ensuring it was sustainable, portable, and durable. The final result was a true co-creation. Once again, we learned that design is not just a tool – it's a language. And when that language serves meaningful causes, it becomes powerful. More than a prize, the Design for a Better World Award signals a shift in mindset: there is space and value for unconventional approaches and for creating engaging, design-driven experiences.”

JULIA LIMA

Creative Director of Utópika Estúdio Criativo



Participants from the Alianza's member funds engaged in the game during the Maputo meeting.

Voices of the South - Anniversary Annual Publication

Voices of the South is an annual project by Alianza, launched every 9th of December to mark the network's anniversary. With two editions published so far, it showcases the stories, solutions, and governance models of its member funds while strengthening global understanding of community-driven philanthropy.

The first edition takes readers on a journey through the Global South, detailing the three-decade process that led to Alianza's creation and offering in-depth perspectives on the regions where its member funds operate. The 2024 edition shifts the focus to the work of each fund, presenting their experiences through articles, case studies, and interviews. More than a collection of narratives, Voices of the South is an invitation to rethink philanthropy—highlighting the practical and strategic insights of local funds, fostering cooperation and knowledge exchange, and amplifying the voices of the Global South.

[Download Voices of the South here.](#)

“It's important to see our work reflected in *Voices of the South*, as it serves both as an internal record for Socio-Environmental Fund Plurales and an external one. It weaves a map of funds with shared agendas and captures the scale and strength of the work we collectively carry out as part of the Alianza. Revisiting these texts – where the struggles and resistance of communities and territories across the Global South are reflected – fuels and inspires us to keep supporting and strengthening grassroots organizations in Argentina.”

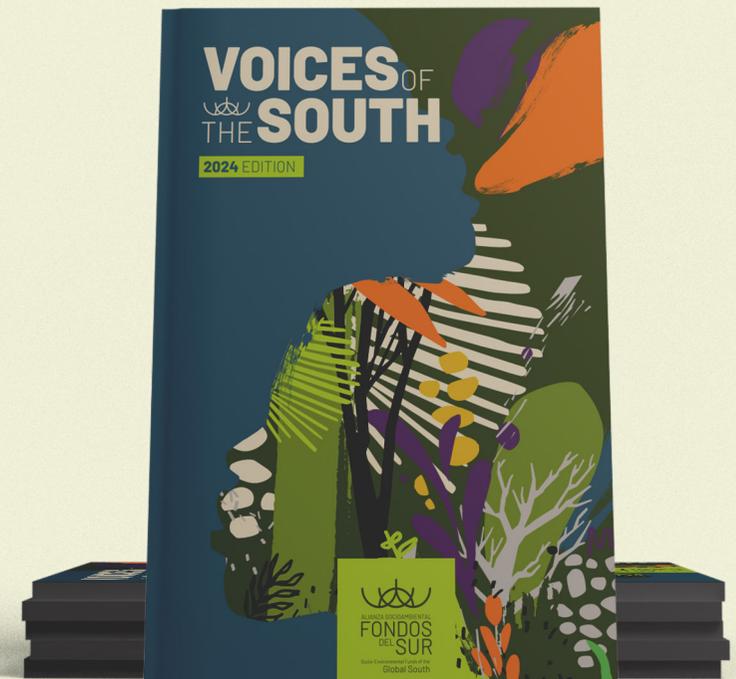
MARTA ESBER

Program Officer at Socio-Environmental Fund Plurales.

“The value of hearing stories from the ground is that different contexts may offer different solutions to address similar issues, giving life to the approach to think globally and act locally. Sharing Samdhana's good stories may encourage more context-based actions among partners and networks.”

ERWIN QUINONES

Deputy Executive Director for the Philippines-Mekong Operations at Samdhana Institute.





Conclusion and Looking Ahead

As Alianza reflects on the milestones of 2023 and 2024, what emerges is a powerful story of collective growth, shared purpose, and deepening commitment to locally-led solutions across the Global South. From Bogotá to Maputo, and through every exchange, working group, and global engagement, the network has strengthened its identity and expanded its capacity to influence both narratives and practices in global philanthropy.

Looking ahead, Alianza remains steadfast in its mission to build a more just, inclusive, and equitable philanthropic ecosystem—one that places power and resources in the hands of those most impacted by the climate crisis and structural injustice. As we enter a pivotal period marked by mounting challenges and urgent global

shifts, the path forward will require even stronger collaboration, bolder advocacy, and unwavering trust in local leadership.

Together, we will continue to grow, challenge dominant models, and champion the transformative power of community-driven change.

Juliana Tinoco



ALIANZA SOCIOAMBIENTAL
**FONDOS
DEL SUR**

Socio-Environmental Funds of the
Global South