

Afro-descendant Peoples Seek Climate Justice on the Global Stage

José Silvano Silva Santos

José Silvano Silva Santos, a representative of Brazil's Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ), explains how climate change is impacting his community.

[José Silvano Silva Santos, a Black man wearing a dark blue shirt]

JOSÉ SILVANO SILVA SANTOS: I am from the Quilombola community of Bacaba, in the municipality of Oriximiná, of the Amazon Rainforest. We originated from two slaves who inhabited our region there many, many years ago. People generally live off forest products that we harvest without harming nature.

We have recently had many problems with climate change, until now, there was no need to irrigate some plantations. And in the last two years, two extreme droughts dried up all the rivers. And, as our rivers are our streets, our roads, we are now left unable to move around. Without transportation, we now have a shortage of food, both in crops and in fish.

So we have had great difficulty in dealing with climate change. We know that if this discussion reaches an international level, I think it will be much easier to seek support, to seek financial resources to help the community live in a better way.

[The Ford Foundation logo is stacked in a bold black serif font, then transforms into a single letter "F" set inside a black circle.]

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