

UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Questão Hídrica no Cerrado e na Mata Atlântica

March 25, 14h, Virtual

Organized by: Engajamundo, Movimento Baía Viva, A Vida no Cerrado, Water Youth Network and Climate Reality Project Brazil

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The event addresses two biomes of utmost importance when it comes to the Brazilian water debate. The Cerrado is known as the "cradle of water" in Brazil, but only 8.21% of its territory is legally protected by conservation units, and the Atlantic Forest, a threatened biome that directly influences the lives of about 80% of the Brazilian population, has remnants that regulate river flows and help supply aquifers. It is urgent to discuss the problems faced by these biomes and the practical solutions that can be taken.

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the Water Action Agenda database)

Water education project by Associação de jovens Engajamundo (NGO) #SDGAction50642

The implementation of a water education project in 2023 aims to raise awareness and educate the community about the importance of water resources in the Cerrado and Mata Atlantica regions, and how they are affected by climate change. This project will have a lasting impact on the community, ensuring knowledge about sustainable needs in the biome and reducing the impact of climate change on the environment. It will be implemented through community outreach, education programs, and demonstration projects. With a follow-up program, the project team will ensure that the project's objectives are achieved, including the partnerships and collaborators.

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- The connection between the preservation of the Cerrado and Atlantic Forest biomes and the country's water security
- Identification of the main problems found in these biomes
- Availability of water in these biomes
- Practical solutions at the individual and collective level
- Joint mobilization for preservative practices
- Environmental racism implicit in the access to clean water
- Socio-cultural identification with the biome and its cities

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Organization of events (presential or virtual) that promote this discussion and encourage the articulation of people to think about local solutions
- Making petitions to pressure decision-makers
- Conducting a communication campaign for the importance of biomes for the climate agenda
- Creation of threads on Twitter so that this agenda has a high reach
- Emphasis on the preservation of river headwaters and their respective riparian forests
- Valorization and transmission of traditional knowledge
- Promotion of an ecosystemic vision, the knowledge of the fact that what happens in one place affects other places