

Indigenous territorial protection efforts in the Brazilian Amazon

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1. Context

- Indigenous territorial rights continue to be **threatened by political, economic, and criminal activities** in Brazil.
- The increase in invasions of Indigenous Territories (ITs), has consequences for environmental health, cultural and physical livelihoods, and personal security.
- Indigenous people and their partners have responded to these threats with **territorial protection strategies**.

2. Objectives

General: Improvement of territorial protection practices through learning from local knowledge.

- Organization and documentation of local knowledge about effective territorial protection strategies.
- Contribution to local learning process through reflection of personal and organizational experiences.
- Dissemination of effective practices, strategies and recommendations.

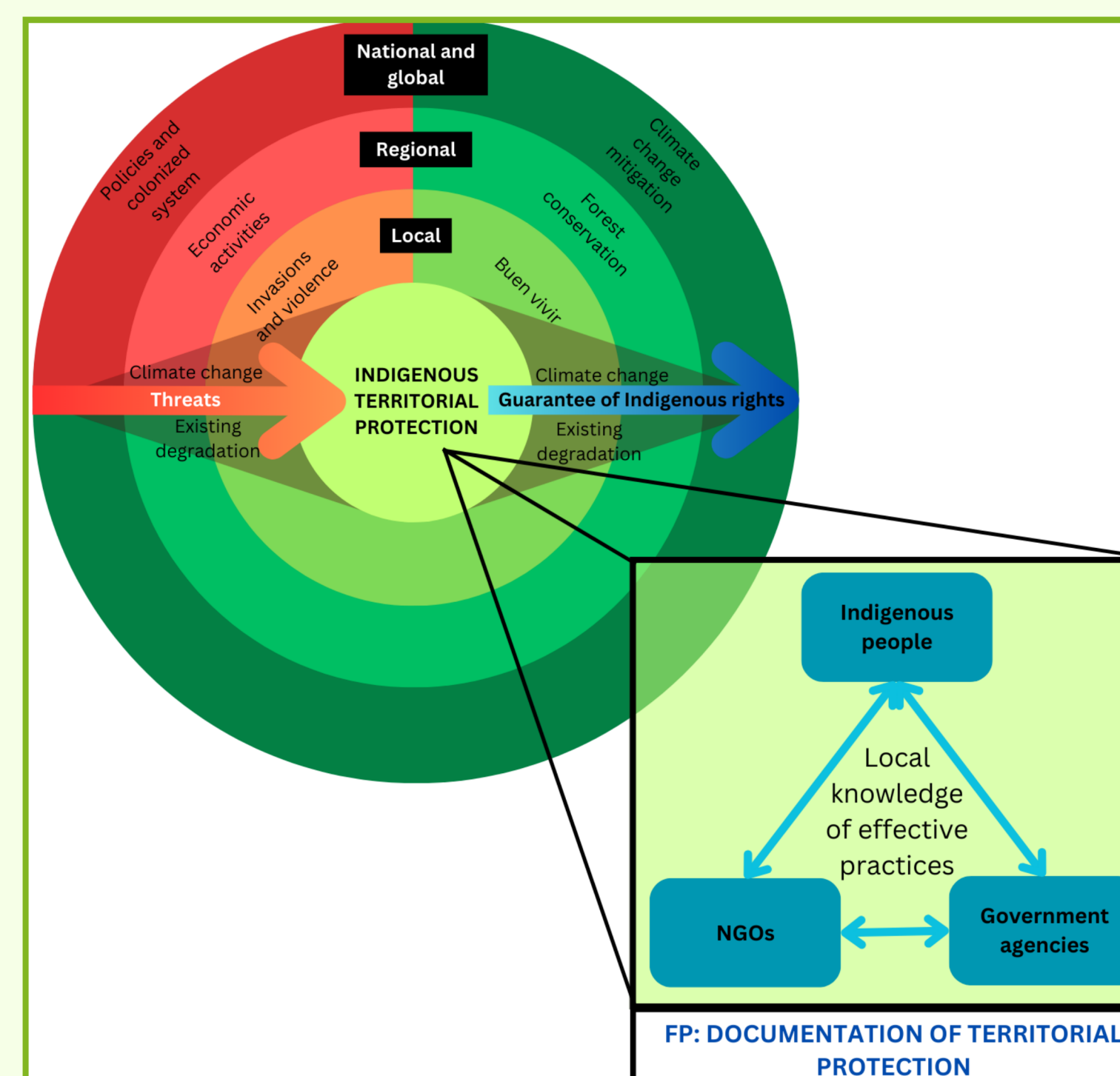
3. Methods

- 18 Semi-structured interviews** using Appreciative Inquiry with:
 - Indigenous people, government agencies, and NGOs.
 - Interviewed in 3 cities in 2 Amazonian states.
- Focused on: strategies, experiences, recommendations, strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results.



"If you protect that territory... then the rights are guaranteed, it's the survival of Indigenous people. I think it's really an issue of **human rights**."

– Funai



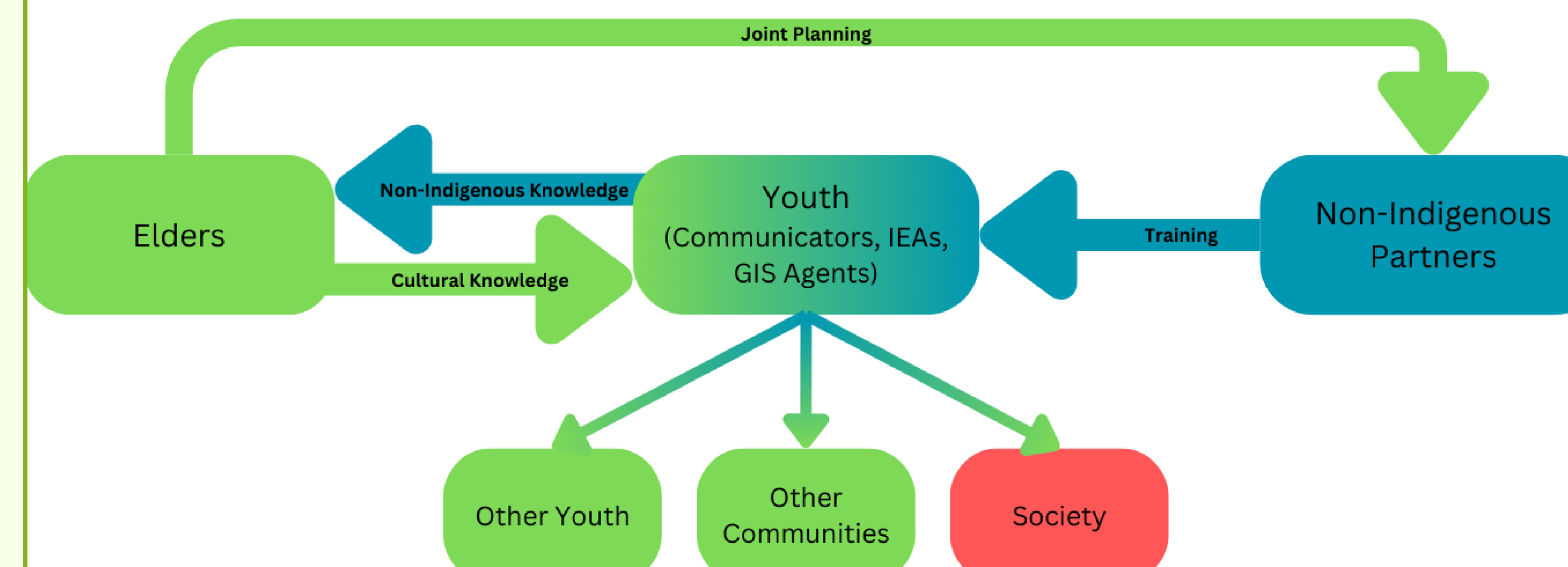
4. Results

Three Components of Territorial Protection

	Monitoring		Surveillance		Inspection	
Actions	1. Collection, monitoring, and processing of information	2. Alert the community of threat and plan expedition	3. Expedition to the invasion site	4. Occupation of bases in strategic points	Five. Seize invaders and materials	
Actors	Communicators	Leadership	Environmental agents***			Stakeholders
			NGOs			Indigenous
						NGOs
			Funai			Environment / social agencies
			ICMbio & IBAMA			Police agencies
			Environmental police		National force	Federal police
Result	Monitor the state of the IT Identify threats	Plan using the type, size, and location of the threat	Respond to invasions with a report of complaint	Prevent invasions with presence	Fine and expel invaders and materials	

- Capacity building** has focused on **technology**, territorial protection, Indigenous association consulting, and social organization

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Knowledge Exchange



- Such collaboration is possible due to stakeholder motivations, engagement philosophy, and level of personal involvement.
 - Overlap among **stakeholders** is the **motivation** to protect the land, their **respect** for Indigenous culture, and their **commitment** to the cause despite risk.

5. Conclusions

- Main strengths and results of territorial protection efforts are **Indigenous protagonism**, the sum of **Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge**, and the **collaboration** of people committed to the cause.
- Government support** directly affects the ability of government agencies to fulfill law enforcement duties.
 - Limitation of staff and resources worsens the burden on people committed to the cause in agencies, NGOs, and most heavily Indigenous people whose well-being depends on the territory.
- Broader societal inequalities** are largely understood by Indigenous people as the drivers of threats to the territory, and they hope to contribute to a more just society for all.

