



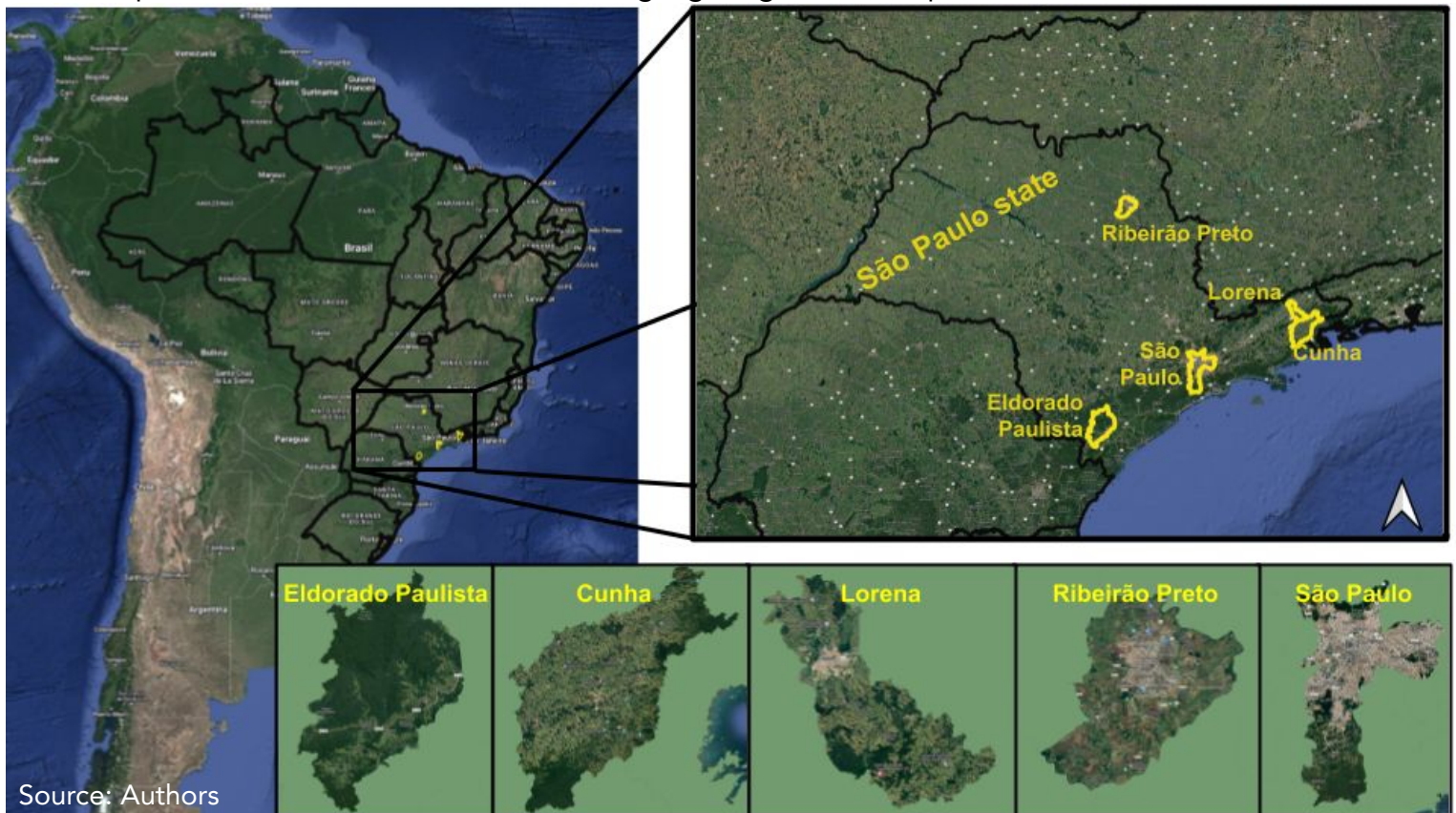
## Interdisciplinary Participatory Action Research on Climate Change at the University of São Paulo

The Participatory Action Research (PAR) initiatives at the University of São Paulo (USP) involved nine different projects led by active professors from seven different institutes at USP, in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.

These projects focus on education, communication, perception, capacity-building and evaluation regarding climate change and climate justice, bringing an interdisciplinary aspect to the overall project.

This research summary aims to report the activities of these projects and highlights the lessons learned in strengthening climate justice efforts at USP.

Map of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, highlighting the municipalities where the PAR occurred



### Impacts and Challenges

The PAR activities at USP have had several positive impacts, including the development of courses and educational materials, the creation of tools for disaster prevention, the formation of expert networks, and the empowerment of community leaders. However, there have been challenges in engaging USP researchers in the initiatives, with more success found in external collaborations. The analysis of the USP Network for Climate Change Mitigation highlighted areas for improvement in strengthening the university's response to the climate emergency.

## Summary of PAR Activities

1. *Education for climate justice:* A course was developed for teachers in a marginalized rural area with the aim of disseminating information about climate change and involving students in climate actions.
2. *Communication to prevent climate change and landslide vulnerability:* An atlas was created to identify regions susceptible to landslides associated with heavy rainfall in a tourist municipality. This project aimed to provide valuable information for decision-making and disaster prevention.
3. *USP's potential as a facilitator in combating the climate emergency:* This project aimed to map the network of climate change experts at USP and strengthen collaboration and interdisciplinary efforts in addressing climate change.
4. *Bioindicators as a strategy for social participation in climate justice issues:* The project focused on educating urban and rural populations about the importance of bees, especially stingless bees, as bioindicators of climate change. Educational activities were conducted in schools and agricultural production regions.
5. *Perception of climate change in small-scale populations:* Board games were developed to collect information on how indigenous communities perceive climate change. This project aimed to raise awareness and provide educational tools for small-scale communities.
6. *Climate literacy for educators in the municipal education system:* Training courses were organized for teachers in the public school system in Ribeirão Preto. Partnerships were established to enhance practical actions in schools and provide recorded classes for greater accessibility.
7. *Training of young community leaders:* This project focused on training young leaders in flood-prone and landslide-prone areas, with an emphasis on marginalized communities. Participatory mapping was conducted to collect data and identify vulnerable areas.
8. *A course on disseminating knowledge about climate change:* A theoretical and practical course was developed for public school teachers in the state of São Paulo. The course was conducted online and received positive feedback from participants.
9. *Evaluation of emissions and waste production in USP units:* This project aimed to calculate the carbon footprint of a USP unit and educate the community about waste management and conscious consumption.

## Conclusion

The Participatory Action Research (PAR) activities carried out at the University of São Paulo (USP) through the Climate-U project have contributed to strengthening climate justice efforts at USP.

USP is a public university in Brazil, renowned for its contributions to scientific research and education. USP has been actively working towards sustainability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The university has established the Superintendence of Environmental Management (SGA) and various research support centers (NAPs) to coordinate and promote sustainability initiatives. One of these NAPs is the Interdisciplinary Research Center on Climate Change (INCLINE), which focuses on research on climate change and global climate change. Recently, INCLINE has implemented PAP activities through the Climate-U project to advance climate justice at USP.

### Research Team



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