

Who owns the right to foretell their own story?

Guideline for
the recording
of experiences
and memories
related to the
climate crisis.

www.historiasclimaticas.org



How to use this guideline

This guideline has been enabled in order to empower individuals, groups, and communities to keep record of their own stories related to the climate crisis. It's an invitation to listen, remember, and to share. Each and every page has been designed aimed at empowering those who are willing to share and preserve their experiences safely, respectfully, and truthfully.

Use the guideline however you feel like*: in conversation circles, workshops, schools, community radio stations, or with your own family. Adapt the ideas, change the order, and make up new ways to record it.

You can read from the beginning all the way to end or even skip straight to the part that makes the most sense to you. Flip through and enjoy it.

The most important part is that the stories may remain alive and told by those who actually lived them.

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The right to memory is the right to life

Each person carries a piece of the history of their people, their land, and their time. Recording it—either orally, through words, images, or sounds—is a way of stating that “we exist.” It’s also a way of caring for the future. And how we need to care for our future.

Historic floods, droughts, extreme heat, wildfires, and landslides are affecting entire communities and transforming their way of living. This is the result of what we so call as climate crisis.

The climate crisis is the set of changes in Earth’s climate caused primarily by human actions, such as deforestation, the burning of fossil fuels, and the excessive consumption of natural resources. These changes make the planet hotter and more unbalanced, causing direct impacts on people’s lives, especially the most vulnerable populations. In short, it is an environmental, social, and economic crisis that threatens our present and the future of the planet.

The big issue is that, when we talk about the impacts of this crisis, they’re almost always recorded only in statistics. And when only numbers appear in the news—how many died, how many houses collapsed, how many rivers dried up—the people disappear. But behind every number lies a face, a backyard, a struggle, a longing.

That’s why telling and keeping your own memories is an act of resistance.

This guide stems from the idea that the stories of those who lived through these events need to be heard, valued, and preserved. They are more than individual memories: they are living records that help shape public policies and strengthen networks.



Before you begin, remember: listening is also recording.

Recording climate stories must be done with empathetic, respectful and conscious listening.

- The person is the main character of their own story;
- Let her speak at her own pace;
- Don't force memories or ask difficult questions;
- It's the details that bring the narrative to life – listen carefully and avoid interrupting.

And if you're recording your own story, be kind to yourself. In any case, embrace silence as well.

Who can tell a story? Everyone.

Stories don't belong only to those who write books, make films, or speak beautifully. They belong to those who live, feel, and transform the world in an everyday basis. Whether you are part of a community, a village, a *quilombo*, a *favela*, or a forest: your story and that of your territory are also part of the planet's memory. And you have the right to record it in your own way.

But what is registering?

Recording is preserving what's important to you and your community. It could be a childhood memory, an ancient habit, a prayer, a food for thought, an experience related to climate change, a loss, or a win.

You can register in many ways:

- *Narrating it out loud, recording an audio or a video;*
- *Writing in a notebook, drafting a letter or writing in a diary;*
- *Drawing what you remember;*
- *Photographing places and people that made moments remarkable.*

The important thing is to do it with care, respect and truth.

A script that listens

A script is a guideline, not a grid. It serves as a support for conducting the conversation, but attentive listening is what will guide you during recording. Therefore, avoid turning the questions into an overly rigid questionnaire and try to allow conversation to flow naturally.

Below are some suggested questions that can inspire your script:

1. Life context

- What represents your territory?
- What represents your relationship with the place where you live?

2. The climate event

- Do you remember what happened during that period?
- What were the main impacts?
- Who was there with you?
- How has your home, neighborhood, or community been affected?

3. Feelings and reactions

- What did you feel at that very moment?
- What struck you the most?

4. Consequences

- What has changed in your daily basis since then?
- What losses and lessons did this event bring to your community?

5. Resistance and future

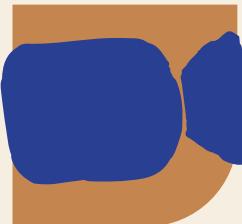
- How did you and your community react?
- What would you like other people to know about what happened?
- What needs to change so that this doesn't happen again?

Choose the format that is most accessible to the person telling your story and most appropriate to the context.



Audio

- You can use a mobile phone or a simple recorder. But you should prioritize quiet locations and test the sound before you begin.
- Let them know that there may be pauses and that it is not necessary to say "nicely" or "properly."
- Record in a common format (like .mp3 or .m4a) for easy use and sharing.



Video

- Record horizontally, with good lighting and little surrounding noise.
- If you only intend to share on social media, you can record vertically.
- Ideally, the person should feel comfortable, so avoid placing the camera too close.
- Be careful with the audio. If you don't have a microphone, you'll need to record in a quieter location.



Other notes

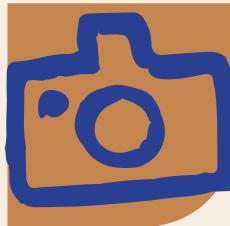
For registration purposes, ask the person to authorize the use of their name and image via video, audio or signature;

If you are recording the voice or image of a person who is under the minimum age, you need authorization from the child or adolescent's parents or their legal guardian.



Text

- It can be written by the person themselves or by whoever is listening, based on the story.
- Keep the language close to the original. Don't over-correct or over-edit, and don't make up words the person didn't say.
- Give the story a title.



Image

- Record important elements of the story: objects, places, portraits, highlights of the event.
- Always ask for permission to take photos and for later use.
- Avoid sensationalist or invasive images.

Remember

**The right to memory
is also the right not to remember
—or not to want to tell.**

Security and consent

Not every story can be told just by any way. Some memories hurt. Others involve sensitive subjects, such as loss, violence, or conflict.

Before registering, consider whether:

- Does the person really want this to be recorded?
- Does she understand how far this material can go?
- Is there anything that could put her at risk?

And don't forget:

- Explicitly ask for permission before recording, filming or photographing.
- Agree in advance whether the name can be used or whether it is better to remain anonymous.
- Store files carefully and avoid uploading them to open groups or public networks.
- If the story involves sensitive content, consider whether it's worth publishing. Sometimes the best record is the one kept with the person who experienced it.



What to do with what you recorded?

Recording is just the beginning. Each story you save can become a learning experience, a collective memory, and inspiration for the future. Once recorded, you can choose the best destination for your material. **The most important thing is to ensure it remains alive and accessible to those who are part of this story.**

You can:

- **Store it in your community's collection**, either physically or digitally. It could be a collective notebook, a shared folder, an online gallery, a bulletin board, or even a memory box. The important thing is that access is simple and shared.
- **Use the recordings in public spaces** such as schools, fairs, community radio stations, cultural gatherings, and exhibitions. They can inspire debates, discussion groups, artistic productions, and local initiatives.
- **Create your own promotional channels**, such as a social media page, a podcast, a fanzine, a documentary, a website or a community exhibition.
- **Connect with other communities** that are also recording their memories to exchange experiences, expand networks, and strengthen ties between territories.
- **Share with the Climate Stories Library**, a collaborative project to preserve voices and experiences of people impacted by climate change.

If you're storing digital files, keep copies on flash memory stick drives, external hard drives, or secure platforms. Avoid relying solely on messaging apps, which can delete content after a period of time.

And don't forget: Those who record have the right to decide how and with whom they share. Memory is collective, but consent is individual.

The Climate Story Library is a collaborative project aimed at preserving the voices and experiences of people impacted by climate change.

More than a platform, it's a tool for listening, empathy and mobilization.

Our goal is to build a collection that combines the sensitive with the political, serving as a basis for research, community actions, and fairer public policies.

The collected stories can be accessed in exhibitions, publications, and digital platforms, always respecting the wishes of those who told them.

Climate Stories Library

Visit our website: historiasclimaticas.org

This guide, in fact, is derived from the library, as we believe that more than an emotional and historical mapping of these memories, we need to guarantee the autonomy of recording for all people and communities. We want the library to be a possibility, not the only means.

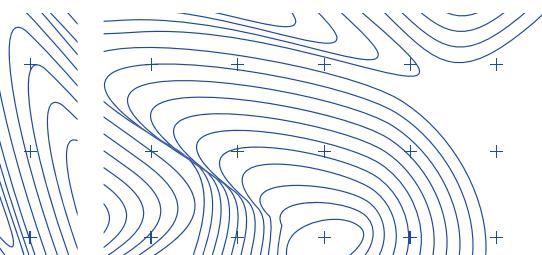
If you'd like, we'd love to hear your story.

Submitting your entry is simple. Visit our website HISTORIASCLIMATICAS.ORG and share your entry.

You can attach audio, video, text, and photos, and we need your permission to use the content, which will be added to the library's collection.

Shall we build this collective collection together?

**Every voice
recorded
is a seed
for the future.**



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