

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



BACK- GROUND

Favelas represent an opportunity for sustainable development outside traditional formal models, by building on the numerous qualities of favelas themselves. Working towards a sustainable approach to development in favelas, based on their assets, reveals favelas as a positive reference for the city, to be seen as examples for formal areas in terms of flexibility, creativity, strategies for resilience, a sense of collectivity, etc. We believe in a new standard of urbanism, where favelas develop in a sustainable fashion, increasingly transforming into resilient, creative, solutions-based places through the strengthening of sustainable initiatives that are already growing more common in Rio's favelas. This type of development contributes to historical reparations—owed to these neglected

communities—by recognizing that the assets of these territories have always been and will continue to be important to the city, and that in the future, they will be essential to building a new and balanced society.

The Sustainable Favela Network (SFN) is based in the view of favelas as sources of *solutions*, including for human sustainability, centered on the concept of Asset-Based Community Development. Launched in November of 2018 after months of exchanges and prior activity mapping, in 2019, the Network became a reality, with numerous meetings, exchanges, campaigns, and actions. The Working Groups began their activities in June and ended the year with clear proposals for 2020.

PROJECT MISSION

To realize the potential of favelas as sustainable communities through a network of knowledge sharing, mutual support, and development of joint efforts between community initiatives working on environmental sustainability and social resilience, and technical allies.

TEAM

Ava Hoffman
Chloe Villalobos
Clara Ferraz
Guillermo Douglass-Jaimes
Luiza de Andrade
Roseli Franco
Theresa Williamson

WHAT WE DO

- **Map** socio-environmental initiatives in Rio's favelas
- **Outreach materials** giving visibility to initiatives and events from Network members
- **Exchanges** within communities, between community initiatives and the general public
- **Collective action events (*mutirões*)** pooling volunteers to develop community projects
- **Knowledge circles and capacity-building materials** between protagonists in the Network
- **Working groups*** on seven themes coordinate activities and meet monthly
- **Demonstration projects** in the Network's seven thematic areas
- **Network meet-ups**, and participation and organization of local and international forums
- **Tools and methodologies** to empower and strengthen community groups are studied, developed and shared
- **Courses and technical support** offered by and for SFN members
- **Advocacy** for public policies that secure the full and sustainable development of favelas

*SEVEN THEMES FOR WORKING GROUPS AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS:

1. Environmental Education
2. Gardens and Reforestation
3. Income Generation
4. Memory and Culture
5. Solar Energy
6. Solid Waste Management
7. Water and Sewerage



Graffiti workshop at the Graffiti Museum during the 3rd Exchange of 2019, Pavuna



OUR WORK

FIRST SUSTAINABLE FAVELA NETWORK COLLECTIVE ACTION IN THE CAMORIM QUILOMBO

On Saturday morning, August 10, 69 Sustainable Favela Network participants gathered at the Camorim Quilombo (ACUQCA), in Jacarepaguá, in the West Zone, ready to get their hands dirty. Quilombos are communities which can trace their beginnings to times of slavery and whose ancestors occupied the same lands during those times; they are akin to indigenous settlements and work to preserve their traditional ways of life. Rio de Janeiro has at least four quilombos within its boundaries.

ACUQCA had been severely impacted by the intense rains that pounded

Rio in early 2019. The rains had swept through the community garden, causing an invasive and thick growth of tall grass throughout the whole area, including in the quilombo's archaeological site. This site, despite numerous attempts, had proven itself unclearable without a significant intervention. Since April, quilombo members had been unable to use the space to host their customary public and community events.

Because of this damage, the SFN's Working Group on Gardens and Reforestation decided to make the



Camorim Quilombo the focus of their first group action. In response to a request for help from local leader Adilson Almeida, responsible for the quilombo, the Network organized its second exchange of 2019 in the form of a collective action, or *mutirão*. Through intense weeding, mural arts painting and gardening, the group was able over the course of the day, to completely revitalize the area that had been invaded by the non-native grass, from the community garden to the archaeological site.

The day's capacity-building circle—a characteristic of all SFN exchanges—centered on fundraising techniques, one of the themes identified as a priority among Network members. In a circle, participants with experience in fundraising for community projects shared practical resources, strategy

suggestions, and general guidance to increase participants' confidence in seeking funding.

Beyond the impact on the territory and opportunities for mutual learning, the day created tangible bridges of solidarity. Members felt that ACUQCA's work was "essential for the recovery of our ancestors' history" and "very inspiring." Everyone indicated that they wanted to continue strengthening the quilombo and creating partnerships. As Almeida says, "Working alone, we remain silent, but together, our voices are much louder."

Learn more at
camorim.favelasustentavel.org

Get to know the SFN's Exchanges:
exchanges.favelasustentavel.org

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS:



In 2019,
467
PEOPLE
participated in
Sustainable Favela
Network activities



27 MEETINGS AMONG THE NETWORK'S 7 WORKING GROUPS



with **109 participants** realizing a **gardening collective action**, a SFN **product booth** at a sustainable products fair, an **environmental education training**, an open letter in **response to a proposal reducing support for solar power by the federal government**, along with numerous offers of support and **10 proposals**** for 2020 demonstration projects



Since **2018**,
825
PEOPLE
have participated
in at least one
Network activity

5 SFN community exchanges in three zones of the city: Babilônia (South Zone), Camorim and Vila Kennedy (West Zone), and Pavuna and Manguinhos (North Zone) involving **293 people** from **142 initiatives** and **68 communities**, with an average of **72 participants per exchange**, visiting **11 community projects** and **5 capacity-building circles**

**2020 WORKING GROUP PROJECT PROPOSALS:

1. **Environmental Education**—Video platform sharing effective environmental education practices in favelas
2. **Gardens and Reforestation**—Develop and implement a 'model public space' and gardening collective-actions
3. **Income Generation**—Online catalog of products and services by SFN members
4. **Memory and Culture**—Activities connected to favelas as heritage sites
5. **Solar Energy**—Popularize solar energy through discussions in interested communities
6. **Solid Waste Management**—Collective action clean-ups and popular education campaigns, and assertive communication
7. **Water and Sewerage**—Realize a model community ecological sewage system

Annual Meet-Up of the entire Sustainable Favela Network with **126 participants**, 55% of whom reside in 48 favelas across all areas of the city (29% North Zone, 28% West Zone, 17% South Zone, 5% Central Rio, 5% Baixada Fluminense, and 16% from other regions) making **connections**, debating and **delving deep into the seven Working Group themes**, participating in **fun activities** (including a swap table, a sampling of Network products, and a zero-waste lunch)





SUSTAINABLE FAVELA NETWORK ANNUAL MEET-UP 2019

On Saturday, November 9, 126 favela community organizers and technical allies from all over Rio de Janeiro gathered for the 2nd Annual Meet-Up of the Sustainable Favela Network at Ecocasa Silvestre in Santa Teresa. It was a unique opportunity, bringing together a network of social and environmental justice initiatives from Rio's favelas in one place for intense exchange and learning. The day's activities gave members a chance to reflect, get involved, and connect, taking advantage of the experiences of groups from numerous city favelas. The activities were designed and planned by the Network's seven working groups.

Inspired by the Solid Waste Working Group, event organizers set up a swap table where participants could leave goods they no longer wanted and take whatever interested them; the SFN Income Generation Working Group had an artisanal craft area for

**I almost gave
up my socio-
environmental
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I kept going,
because
when we see
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growing, we
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not alone!**

Testimonial from the
2019 Annual Meet-Up 2019

I'm leaving here today reenergized and full of ideas.

Testimonial from 2019 Annual
SFN Meet-Up, Santa Teresa

network members to display and sell their sustainable products; and an anonymous table with paper and pens invited participants to share their hopes and fears in leading sustainability initiatives in their communities. Some members traded reusable water bottles, trinkets, and keepsakes. Others sold homemade soap and works of art. Still others posted notes to the activity boards, explaining they had almost given up because of “doubt from others” or “lack of support,” but had pushed on because they found “strength from [their] communities,” “support from where they least expected it,” and because of the SFN itself. “When we see the network growing, we know that we are not alone!” wrote one member.

Representatives from each working group presented their group’s various initiatives, as well as the initial achievements of the working groups this year and their hopes for the future. Following these presentations, each group facilitated deeper discussion circles on the challenges and potential of socio-environmental work within each action area.

In-depth
conversation circle
at the 2019 Annual
Meet-Up,
Santa Teresa

There was also an opportunity to reflect on the five Network exchanges that took place in 2019 with the launch of the video, “Realizing the Sustainable Favela Network 2019,” produced by filmmaker Luiza de Andrade. Verônica Gomes Martins da Silva, President of the Kennedy Brothers Community Center, spoke of the need to value favela-based solutions and the positive aspects of communities that are so often overlooked by the media. Luis Cassiano from the Green Roof Favela project in the Parque Arará community invited everyone to “green favelas from above, through green roofs: it brings life, food, beauty, and hope.” Finally, Regina Tchelly reminded everyone to “think collaboratively, and to hold onto each others’ hands, and knowledge.”

Find out more or check out our videos:
meetings.favelasustentavel.org



RECOGNITION

The Sustainable Favela Network has been highlighted as part of the “Local Projects Challenge” project gallery of the Accelerating SDGs initiative, the result of a partnership between the Center for Sustainable Urban Development at Columbia University and the Architecture and Urbanism School at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Learn more: bit.ly/ProjetoLocalRFS

LOCAL PROJECT CHALLENGE

Center for Sustainable
Urban Development
EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THANKS:

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 VOLUNTEERS:

Abby Hannah, Ben Bildsten, Carolina Medina Zárate,
Chauncie Bigler, Colin Andrew, Daiana Contini, Daisy Longden,
Emma Bergman, Jessica Goodenough, Rachel Mucha,
Robin Hüppe, Sofia Bazin, Simon Yang, Tara Nelson

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 HOSTS AND PARTNERS:

Partners



Hosts



THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SFN ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS

- Adalberto Almeida
- Adam Newman
- Adilson Batista de Almeida
- Adriano Paraíso
- Agenor Silva
- Ailton Lopes
- Albertina Mendonça do Nascimento
- Alessandra Biá
- Alessandra Marques da Conceição
- Alessandra Vaz da Silva
- Alessandro Macedo
- Alessandro Musette
- Alessandro Santos
- Alex Belchior
- Alex França
- Alexandre Clean
- Alexandre da Silva Leleko
- Alexandre Pessanha Telles
- Aliciane de Souza Peixoto
- Aline Barcellos da Cruz
- Almir Guimaraes Jr.
- Alyson Oliveira
- Amanda Nogueira
- Ana Aparecida Felix de Almeida
- Ana Berton
- Ana Bivar
- Ana Julia
- Ana Lucia de Oliveira
- Ana Paula Leandro
- Ana Paula Santos
- Ana Vitoria Silva
- Anatula Axiotelis
- André Abreu de Souza Constantine
- André do Nascimento
- Andressa Dias
- Andrezza Aguiar Coelho
- Antônio Carlos Almeida
- Anunciada
- Aracina
- Aracy dos Santos
- Aretusa Ana da Silva Paula
- Augusto Ezequiel Profeta
- Axolile Notywala
- Berenice Natalício
- Bernadete
- Bernardo Felix
- Bezerra da Costa
- Bia Carvalho
- Bianca de Sardi
- Bianca Wild
- Bradley Araújo
- Bruna Marques
- Bruna Soares
- Bruna Vieira de Medeiros
- Bruno Cruz de Almeida
- Bruno Vargas
- Caio Bruno
- Camilla Galvão Baffa
- Camille Minns
- Candice de Albuquerque
- Carina Bickel
- Carla Carinhanha Cabral
- Carla
- Carlos da Silva
- Carlos Evandro Moyses
- Carmem dos Santos Camerindo
- Carol Thimbau
- Carson Silveira
- Cecilia Marcos
- Chirley Correia
- Clarice Cavalcante
- Claudio Costa Nunes
- Cleber Araújo
- Cris Marques
- Cristiane França Soares
- Cristiane Silva
- Dandara Bustamante
- Daniel Coutinho
- Daniele Fagundes
- Danieli Duarte
- Danielle Hermann
- Danyelle Fioravanti
- Darcila Alvez
- Davi Marcos Gonçalves
- Davi Souza
- David Douglass-Jaimes
- David Pereira de Melo
- Debora Veiga
- Débora Silva
- Denise Francisca de Oliveira Santos
- Denise Vieira dos Santos
- Diana Almeida
- Dinei Medina
- Diocelia Galvão Batista
- Dirce da Gloria
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- Edna Thomaz Rodrigues
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- Eduardo Avila
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- Ester Manguiera
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- Ethan Payne
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- Fabiana Ferrinha
- Fabiana Moraes
- Fabiano Da Silva
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- Felipe Paschoalinho Braga
- Felipe Valentim
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- Franciele Bonoldi
- Francisco Polito
- François Fournier
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- Gabriel de Assis
- Gabriel Moller

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- Giselle Raposo
- Giulia Tagliente
- Giuseppe Franco Calcavecchia Kuhn
- Graciara Silva
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- Guilherme Sucupira
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- Hannah Cavalcanti
- Hans Rauschmayer
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- Kauã Pereira
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- Larissa Loderer
- Larissa Mayumi Okada Bernardi
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