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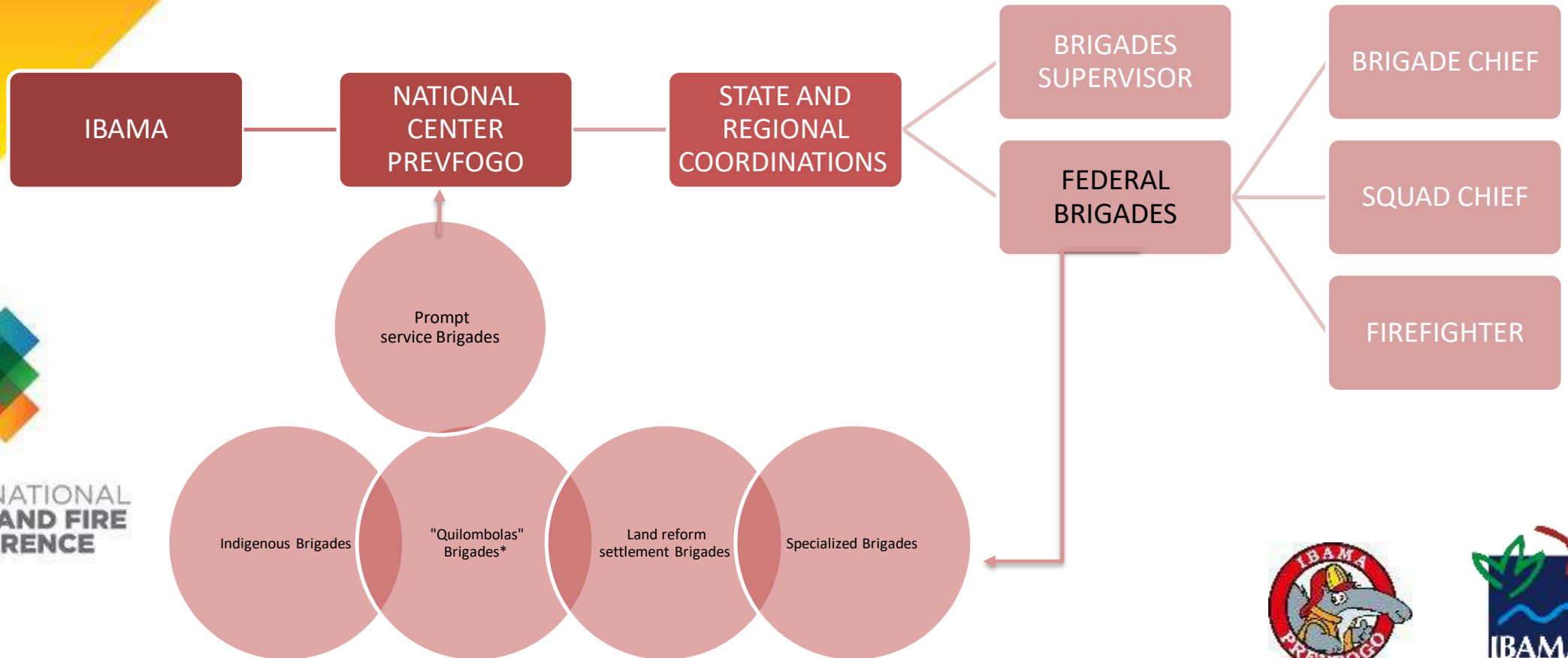
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“We are few, but we are not alone” – The importance of women's participation in the Federal Brigades for Wildfire Prevention and Suppression – PREVFOGO/IBAMA

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Simplified structure of PREVFOGO/IBAMA



* traditional communities remaining from slaves





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How is the selection?

TAF – Physical fitness test

2,4 km with costal pump 24kg
Man - max. 25min
Women - max . 30 min (2022)

THUFA - Agricultural tool use skills test

To weed 15m²
Man – 20 min.
Women – 24 min. (2022)

Firefighter course

Ranked on TAF and THUFA
Written test + Resume



Reference: Thainan Bornato



Reference: Thainan Bornato



Reference: Thais Michele

Comparing previous years

Where are the women?

Year	approximately % of women in the brigade	approximately % of female bosses* **
2020	1,62%	2,83%
2021	2,18%	3,14%
2022	4,07%	3,98%



* Brigades Supervisor, Brigade Chief and Squad Chief

Reference: Adapted by the authors of the PREVFOGO archive, 2023





Aim: Recognizing the importance of women's participation in the PREVFOGO Brigades, including where they work, what functions they perform, what the work environment is like, and the challenges they encounter.



References

- Espada, A.L.V.; Oliveira, M.S. Diversidade, Inclusão e Equidade de Gênero no Programa Manejo Florestal e Prevenção de Fogo no Brasil: Estudo técnico. 1ª ed. USFS-USAID: Brasília, DF, 48 p. 2022.



Form to collect testimonials



Quantitative and qualitative analysis



Informal conversations with women firefighters to discuss form responses



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Results

To analyze the responses, we separated them into categories:

Positive points:

I – Environmental Education – most research informants consider women to be highly competent at leading environmental education initiatives due to their organization skills, broader vision, and care relationship with the Earth

"Women add up a lot to the brigades, especially in the area of environmental education, they make a difference, they have more facilities in dealing with some audiences, including children and adolescents, and the elderly."

II – Supression fire – They reported that women have a strong capacity for analysis and strategy development, which expand the possibilities of integrated fire management.

"Women firefighters bring aspects that are often not noticed by men. The attention to details that can make all the difference in the success of a suppression, management and/or prevention action."



Reference: Antônio Balderramas





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Reference: Fernanda Cano



Results

Negative points:

I – Physical strength;

"Negative points are related to physical strength, the ability to carry heavier equipment and tools for a long time. However, this cannot be generalized."

II – Infrastructure (restrooms, camp, health);

"I believe that there is effectively no negative aspect, but there is a need to seek to adapt equipment and facilities to meet the profile of women, needs and limitations exist for both men and women."

III - Men's tolerance of differences in abilities and giving women opportunities to do all activities;

"I would like us to have more freedom to go to the field, show our service, that we are not only in Environmental Education, but that we can do all kinds of services within the brigade".

Result – Main difficulties

- Warrior syndrome: not showing weakness, not respecting one's own limits;
- Misogyny / harassment;
- Structure designed for men;
- Family issues (children, husbands)
- Indigenous cultural issues / role of women in the family;
- Women's skills are often underestimated or not valued

"What has happened frequently is that most of the time, women provoke a problematic situation by accusing men of harassment. Many times this does not happen, but they use this trick to take revenge or to evade scolding or indiscipline. Other than that, I think it's important to have the participation of decent women with technical qualifications."



Improvements and suggestions

- ❖ Improvement in the systematization of data regarding the presence of women;
 - ❖ More women in the brigades, to enrich the brigade's potential and favor women's sense of comfort and security;
 - ❖ Specific structures/resources to improve the quality of women's work: tents and bathrooms, medication, coexistence rules;
 - ❖ Discussion in the communities about the presence of women in the brigades (conversation circles, lectures, events);
 - ❖ Events only for women firefighters;
 - ❖ Identification of the various skills and abilities that women firefighters have;
 - ❖ include gender diversity in mandatory trainings for brigade members and instructors.



Indicators for measuring the improvement in the participation of women in the PREVFOGO brigades

- Number of women firefighters in the Brigades;
- Number of female bosses;
- Number and qualification of female firefighters leaving the brigade;
- Number of events/actions focused on women's participation;
- Number of discussions on gender within the brigades/ number of times gender is addressed at events;
- Comparison of functions performed by men and women in brigades;
- Effectiveness of brigades with women and without women;





Thank you!

Acknowledgements
PREVFOGO

Women firefighters
Indigenous firefighters
Volunteers firefighters

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