This document details the findings of the literature reviews used to estimate the area of community lands in the Americas (formally recognized or not).

General Notes:

1. **Baseline country area data.** The total country area excludes major inland water bodies. The data source used is the [World Bank Land area table](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CCN.PC.4-L.FT).

2. **Indigenous and community lands combined.** No distinction is made between community lands as customarily held by Indigenous Peoples (self-identification) or the customary lands of other communities in the final estimates. However, when disaggregated data are available, these are presented in the country notes.

3. **Area estimates of indigenous and community lands are conservative.** The estimates are based on information found in literature reviews and from personal communication. Area estimates are often available for formally recognized indigenous and community lands only. Estimates of not formally recognized land areas are often partial or non-existent. In such cases, the best
information available is recorded, such as the number of formal land petitions requesting demarcation and titling.

4. **Percentages of the country area apply strictly to lands:** Many coastal and lakeside Indigenous Peoples and communities claim rights to adjacent foreshore and waters. These are not included.

5. **Plural sources of findings.** Literature review research of the assessor may lead to different estimates from different sources. Space allows only for the most recent sources accessed to be recorded in country notes.

6. **Information is under periodic review.** Findings are current as of 1st October 2015 based on research conducted over 2014-2015. More information improving reliability of figures is continuously coming out. Dated additions and adjustments will be made periodically.

7. **Estimates are presented per country.** The estimates are detailed below along with relevant notes. Countries are sorted by region and country name, using the UN division of the World (including necessary adjustments as needed for data presentation). Only countries that have been assessed or where some partial information has been found are presented.
BERMUDA (UK)

There are no Indigenous peoples in Bermuda, the island was empty when the Europeans discovered it in the early 1500s.

CANADA

As of March 2014, First Nation land base (reserves) covered a total area of 3,554,836 hectares (INAC, 2014). Since then, the government of Canada has approved 177 additions of land for reserves proposal over a total area of 54,784 hectares (INAC, 2017).
Since the adoption of comprehensive land claims policy in 1973 to settle Aboriginal land claims in areas of Canada where they had not been dealt with by treaty or through other legal means, 26 Modern Treaties have been concluded between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. These agreements generally recognize two types of land rights over the claimed traditional territories: a fraction of it is recognized as Aboriginal property (sometimes including sub-surface rights), while the rest remains Crown land but recognizes certain management and exclusion rights to the claimants. In total, the 26 Modern treaties have established indigenous ownership rights over 62,014,075 hectares, and other land and resources rights over 297,021,976 hectares (See INAC, 2016 for a detail of each agreement).
Thus, Aboriginal rights formally recognized by the Canadian government cover a total of 362.6 Mha (3.6 Mha of Indian reserves and 359 Mha of Comprehensive land claims agreements), or 39.9% of the country land area.

69 other Modern Treaties are still in negotiations. Many of these unsettled comprehensive claims overlap with each other or with existing agreements. GIS analysis based on the maps of Modern Treaties in negotiations provided by LCAC (2012, p.3) and official geospatial data on comprehensive...
land claims agreements provided by Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAC) allowed us to assess that in total, an additional 200 to 250 million hectares of lands are currently claimed under the comprehensive land claim policy, or 22.0 to 27.5 percent of the country land area (range is given to account for possible spatial inaccuracies in the datasets). An indicative figure of 200 Mha will be used here, knowing that the First Nation land base may also expand to answer specific claims.

Sources:

GREENLAND (DENMARK)
The 2009 Act on Self-Government gave Greenland a high level of self-determination within the State of Denmark. The country has a public government and aims to establish a sustainable economy. 90% of Greenland’s population is Inuit.
The entire country of Greenland can be considered as an Indigenous territory, although there is no statutory or regulatory framework to secure their land tenure.
Sources:
Jens Dahl, personal communication on 2015/09/21
Adam Worm, Deputy Head, Greenland Representation in Denmark, personal communication on 2015/11/02

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
According to the geographic datasets of Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian lands published by the US. Census Bureau and the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, the legally recognized indigenous lands total 33.584 Mha. American Indian reservations (federal and state recognized, or joint-use areas) cover 28.57 Mha, Hawaiian home lands total 0.084 Mha, Off-reservation trust lands represent 0.92 Mha, and Alaska ANCSA Conveyances and Alaska Native allotments total 4.01 Mha.
Sources:

In addition to these formally recognized lands, there are still some land petitions in the U.S. In Alaska, 3.52 MHa (0.38% of the total USA area) are ANCSA selected lands that have yet to be transferred either to the state or Native corporations. Other disputed indigenous territorial claims still exists in the Continental United States, such as over the Black Hills, but their area could not be quantified. Thus, they are not included in the baseline estimate of not formally recognized indigenous lands.
Sources:

BELIZE

No data could be found in the literature regarding the area of indigenous and community lands in the country.
However, according to national censuses, 26,000 self-identified Indigenous Peoples are living in Belize, representing 17.8% of the country’s population.

COSTA RICA

There are 8 Indigenous peoples in Costa Rica, occupying 0.33 Mha of lands formally recognized (6.44% of the country land area) divided into 24 different territories formally recognized as owned by Indigenous peoples. Unrecognized lands are an underestimate. It refers to lands claimed by Asentamientos Campesinos (Peasant Communities). No spatial data was available for the claimed area of Indigenous Territory. IP lands were identified in maps during 1970s, but these lands were never formalized and titled properly. Non-IPs have often illegally occupied the IP lands, even though the 1977 Ley Indigena prescribes that indigenous territories are “inalienable” and “exclusive” to indigenous peoples and that nonindigenous “persons cannot rent, lease, purchase or acquire by any other means” lands therein. IPs claim restitution of these lands.

Sources:
RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf
EL SALVADOR

No data could be found in the literature regarding the area of indigenous and community lands in the country.

According to the 2007 census, the 5 Indigenous Peoples living in El Salvador total 13,319 persons, representing 0.2% of the country’s population. There is a government effort to demarcate and title indigenous lands, but the reviewed literature did not provide estimates of the amount of land held and/or used by Indigenous Peoples and communities in the country.


GUATEMALA

0.38 Mha (3.55% of the country land area) are designated for Indigenous peoples and local communities as Community Concessions, and 1.40 Mha (13.04% of the country land area) are Communal Lands owned by them. In total, 16.58% of Guatemala is formally recognized as indigenous and/or community lands.

The estimate of 1.4 Mha unrecognized community lands refers to Tierras Comunales, and is similar to the numbers presented in 2009 by the national Ministry of environment. However, this could be an underestimate, knowing that Indigenous Peoples represent 60% of Guatemala total population and that their participation to the country’s economy as a whole account for 61.7% of output.

Sources: RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf

HONDURAS

In Honduras, 0.50 Mha of Social Forestry System or Microwatersheds are designated for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (4.42% of the country land area). The Private Tribal Lands and Miskito Coastal Communities cover 1.07 Mha (9.55% of the country land area) and are owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Thus, 13.98% of Honduras land area is formally recognized indigenous and/or community land.


The total territory claimed by Indigenous Peoples in Honduras counts for approximately 2 Mha and only 10% have a guaranteed property title.


MEXICO

Ejidos and communities are some forms of communal land ownership formally recognized to Indigenous peoples and local communities in Mexico; they cover 101.13 Mha, which represents 52.02% of the country land area. The claimed area refers to “not executed” Ejidos (0.46Mha) and “not executed” Comunidades (0.41Mha), using spatial data from the National Agrarian Register.
ESTIMATING NATIONAL PERCENTAGES OF INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY LANDS: METHODS AND FINDINGS FOR THE AMERICAS

Source: RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf

It should be noted that in a report for the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI), current indigenous territories are defined as geographic spaces with a long-lasting occupation and use by Indigenous Peoples. Although defining and delineating the extent of these territories is made with some approximations, it is possible to identify the minimum “hard core” of actual indigenous territories, where Indigenous Peoples can have social, cultural and economic autonomous policies. It includes lands formally recognized within the ejido and communities system, as well as communal indigenous territories that could be bought as private property (6.95 Mha). However, these private lands are not counted here.


NICARAGUA

Across Nicaragua, 17 of the 23 indigenous and afro-descendant territories the Government engaged to title have been formally documented, totaling 2.25 Mha - 17.3% of the country land area. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2012. La tenencia de los territorios indígenas y REDD+ como un incentivo de manejo forestal: el caso de los países mesoamericanos. Available at: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/AGRO_Noticias/docs/territorios_indigenas-web.pdf

3.98 Mha are additionally claimed, representing 30.6% of the National territory (PNUD, 2011, as cited in the Portal Territorio Indígena y Gobernanza website)


PANAMA

According to GIS data and spatial analysis, the indigenous territories that were legally established as Comarcas cover a total area of 1.7 Mha. Vergara Asenjo and Potvin (2014) conducted participatory mapping of indigenous land claims in the country and estimate that together with formally recognized lands they cover 2.3 million hectares. In 2016, the IUCN published a map of indigenous land use and occupancy in central America, showing that Panama indigenous peoples hold about 3.1 million hectares of lands. The IWGIA “The Indigenous World” 2018 Yearbook estimates that once the titling process of indigenous lands in the country is finalized, collective land ownership would cover more than 2.5 million hectares. A similar figure can be found in a presentation made by COONAPIP, the National Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples in Panama, during a workshop held Panama in May 2018. Thus, that lands collectively held and used by indigenous peoples in Panama cover between 2.5 and 3.1 million hectares). The most conservative estimate has been kept here.

It must be noted that although Afro-descendant populations are present in the country, they do not claim collective rights (at the difference of other Latin American countries, such as in Brazil or in Colombia; see IWGIA, 2018).

Sources:
CARIBBEAN

DOMINICA
No data could be found in the literature regarding the area of indigenous and community lands in the country. However, Indigenous Peoples are estimated to number 3,000 people in Dominica, thus representing 4.05% of the country population.
Source:

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
No data could be found in the literature regarding the area of indigenous and community lands in the country. However, Indigenous Peoples are estimated to number 6,000 people in St. Vincent, thus representing 5.3% of the country population.
Source:

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
No data could be found in the literature regarding the area of indigenous and community lands in the country. However, While Trinidad and Tobago has no specific legislation on Indigenous Peoples’ rights, they are estimated to number 12,000 to 400,000 people nationwide.
Source: 
ARGENTINA

Lands managed and owned by Indigenous Peoples total 8.0 Mha (2.9% of Argentina). The estimated 4.61 Mha (1.7% of the country landmass) yet to be formally recognized as indigenous lands is an underestimate. It refers to official data from Instituto Nacional de Asunto Indigenas (INAI) in 2013 and represents the area covered by a nationally mandated survey of indigenous land claims which started in 2009/2010. The survey is still ongoing. In 2013, it covered only 814 of the 1614 communities with land claims. The claimed areas of the rest of the communities is still to be mapped and calculated. Note that another official document of INAI from 2012 estimates that Indigenous communities occupy a total area of 15 Mha in Argentina. The most conservative estimates have been kept here.

Sources:
RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Indigenous peoples and local communities in Bolivia have their land rights formally recognized over a total area of 39.4 Mha (36.4% of Bolivia land area) as Territorio Indígena Originario Campesino (TOIC), Propiedades Comunitarias, Comunidades Agro-Extractivas (Norte Amazónico) and land designated to Agrupaciones Sociales del Lugar for the use of forest in a sustainable way.

At least 13.2 Mha are also known to be claimed as TIOC without formal recognition, 2.8 Mha of Propiedades Comunitarias are pending titling according to official sources (INCREA), an estimated 0.11 Mha of Títulos Comunales para Comunidades Agro-Extractivas (Norte Amazónico) are yet to be formally recognized, and Agrupaciones Sociales del Lugar claim a total area of 1.35 Mha of which 0.629 have been certified. However, the total area claimed (16.9 Mha) shall be considered an underestimation as most of these claims are in process and the total area to be titled is still uncertain.
BRAZIL

Formal recognition of indigenous and community lands in Brazil is distributed among numerous organizations. FUNAI (National Foundation on Indigenous Peoples) is responsible for monitoring the Indigenous Territories recognition process. Based on official data from 2021, 725 Terras Indigenas (TI) have been recognized by the government and engaged (238 TI) or finalized (487 TI) the land titling process. They respectively cover a total area of 9,484,987 ha and 106,808,547 ha, or 1.1% and 12.6% of the country land area (note that the final extent of TI is unknown until their demarcation during the early stages of the titling process and are thus not counted here). According to a report from the Missionary Council for Indigenous Peoples (CIMI, 2017), there are still 530 indigenous land claims that are yet to be considered by the government. The areas covered by these claims is not known, and the total figures for IP lands is Brazil is likely to be an underestimate.

Quilombolas (Afro-descendant) lands are registered by INCRA (National Institute on Agrarian Reform and Colonization). In 2019, approximately 1.0 Mha have been titled for Afro-descendant Peoples. In addition to these already titled areas, there are 1748 requests (claims) from quilombola communities for land regularization at the federal level, out of which 291 have been delimited and whose area has been mapped by INCRA at 2.60 Mha. An extrapolation based on the above mapping for all 1748 claims provides an estimate of 15.6 Mha claims for afro-descendant peoples in Brazil. This is likely to be an underestimate as it doesn’t include Afro-Descendant People’s requests for land regularization in states such as Maranhão, Pará, Piauí and Bahia.

Traditional peoples other than Indigenous and Quilombolas such as raizeiros, pantaneiros, seringueiros, faxinalenses, piaçaveiros, coletores de babacu, castanha do pará, and other traditional peoples of the forest may have their land rights recognized by the ICMBio (Chico Mendes Institute for Conservation of the Biodiversity) as conservation units combining environmental and cultural preservation objectives (RESEX, RDS, and FLONAS), or by INCRA under particular types of settlements designed to promote sustainable collective land management (PAE, PDS, PEAEX, and PAF). Data from INCRA shows that by the end of 2017, they covered a total area of 14.0 Mha, shared between 414 PAE (9,868,841 ha), 135 PDS (3,180,147 ha), 6 PEAEX (6,217,032 ha) and 7 PAF (318,610 ha). The National cadaster of Protected areas (CNUC, 2021) currently registers 96 RESEX (15,689,976 ha) and 39 RDS (11,244,680 ha). No data is available on traditional peoples’ land claims lacking formal recognition, so the total figure used here is likely an underestimate.

Sources:
RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf
CNUC, 2021. Lista das UCs ativas no CNUC com respectivas categorias de manejo, área, esfera de governo e ano de criação; Tabela consolidada por categoria de manejo, biomia e esfera. http://dados.mma.gov.br/dataset/44b6dc8a-dc82-4a84-8d95-1b0da7c85dac/resource/baf25448-5064-4ece-9a0e-d778b0ec542/download/cnuc_2021_2-semestre.csv

CHILE

0.06 Mha of Use Concessions are designated for Indigenous peoples and local communities in Chile (0.09% of the country land area). 2.25 Mha (3.03% of Chile land area) are owned by Indigenous peoples and local communities, as Antique Indivisible Gifted Titles for Mapuche Communities,
Community Subsidies, Community Land Purchases, Fiscal Transfers, Regulated Community Property, Diaguita Agricultural Community of Huasco Alto, or Agricultural Communities in the Coquimbo Region.

Unrecognized land claims for indigenous people's territories are estimated to cover 1.03 Mha, and 0.072 Mha for peasant communities. However, this is likely to be an underestimate, as before the “Pacification Campaign of the Araucania (1861-1883)”, the Mapuche people held 5 mha of land, only a part of which have been legally recognized as indigenous territories.

Sources:
RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf

COLOMBIA

33.87% of Columbia land area is owned by Indigenous peoples and local communities as Afro-Colombian Community Lands and Indigenous Reserves, totaling 37.58 Mha. There are 715 Indigenous Reserves covering an area of 32.18 Mha (29.00% of the country land area), and 181 Afro-Colombian Community Lands covering 5.4 Mha (4.86% of Colombia total land area). The figure of 4.76 Mha unrecognized claims refers to Indigenous territorial claims over 3.0 Mha and Afro-Colombian Community Land claims over 1.76 Mha.

Sources:

ECUADOR

There are 12 indigenous territories (Tierras de Ocupación Indígena) in Ecuador. 4.8 Mha are occupied land and 3.8 Mha are titled lands (respectively 19.33% and 15.30% of the country land area.


Afro-Ecuadorians also collectively hold lands in Ecuador, but no estimate of their total area could be found. They are not included in this baseline estimation.

FALKLAND ISLANDS / MALVINAS (BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORY)

There are no Indigenous Peoples in the Falkland islands which where uninhabited at the time of discovery by the Europeans in 1690, although they may have been visited by the Fuegians (the indigenous inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego, at the Southernmost tip of the Americas). See Carafano, 2005 and Hattersley-Smith, 1983.

Sources:
Some collective land rights are recognized over areas called "Zones de Droits d'Usage Collectif" (ZDUC - i.e. Areas of Collective Use Rights). There are 27 of these areas across French Guyana, covering a total of 0.67 Mha (about 7.5% of the country land area). Of these 27 ZDUC, 24 benefit indigenous communities, and 3 benefit Maroon communities. Source: Damien Davy, Geoffroy Filoche, Françoise Armanville, Armelle Guignier, 2014. Zones de Droits d'Usage Collectifs, Concessions et Cessions en Guyane française: Bilan et perspectives 25 ans après. Cayenne: CRNS, IRD, observatoire Hommes/Milieux Oyapock, CNRS Guyane. Available at: http://www.guyane.cnrs.fr/IMG/pdf/2014_rapport_ZDUC_final.pdf

GUYANA

Titled Amerindian Village Lands, Community Forest Management Agreements and Amerindian Protected Areas are designated lands for Indigenous peoples and local communities in Guyana. They cover a total of 3.8 Mha (19.32% of the country land area). No area has yet been designated as Amerindian Protected Area, even if the statutory and regulatory basis for the tenure recognition is in place. The total estimated claims are for 11.94 Mha, out of which 8.06 Mha are territories claimed by Amerindian Peoples and 3.88 Mha are territories claimed by Afro-descent Peoples. Sources: Source: RRI, 2015, Who Owns the World’s Land? A global baseline of formally recognized indigenous and community land rights. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: http://www.rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/GlobalBaseline_web.pdf

RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf

PARAGUAY

According to Federación por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas (FAPI), the government recognizes all indigenous land that is titled or is in the process of being granted/titled to indigenous people. They cover an estimate of 1.2 Mha: 1.1 Mha currently visualized in FAPI’s Tierras Indígenas platform (https://www.tierrasindigenas.org/Mapa), and an estimated 0.1 Mha yet to be visualized. Only the private (cattle ranches) and public land (public protected areas) which indigenous people live on and use - a total of perhaps 100,000 hectares - is not formally recognized by the government as indigenous land.

PERU

According to a combination of the data from SICNA (as of August 2018), from SICCAM (as of July 2018), and from the Peruvian NGO Instituto del Bien Común (IBC, 2016) on riverine communities, there is currently 12 185 indigenous communities in Peru currently holding an estimated 69.5 Mha. However, only 7029 of these communities have received a title to their land over a total area of 37.8 Mha. In addition, five Indigenous Reserves were established between 1988 and 2000 for the protection of isolated indigenous groups over a total area of 2.81 Mha, and 5.8 Mha of Communal Reserves are currently designed for sustainable use by neighboring native communities, while the State keeps ownership of the land itself. In total, the lands owned by or designated for indigenous peoples in Peru cover an area of 46.36 million hectares.

Using the method used by IBC (2016) to estimate the total area of community lands, an estimated total of 31.7 Mha is still to be formally recognized to the 5156 communities without titles. Seven new Indigenous Reserves covering a total area of 6.79 million hectares have been proposed by civil
society groups but are still waiting for conclusive government action. Thus, IPLC unrecognized land claims could cover a total of 38.5 Mha.

Sources:

SURINAME
Suriname does not have a statutory or regulatory framework that recognizes local communities' rights to own or control land. The 10.5 Mha claim of territorial rights for Indigenous peoples (6.5 Mha) and Maroon Peoples (4 Mha) does not include community claims in the coastal area of the country and to that extent, is an underestimate.
Source: RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)
In Venezuela, 2.84 Mha of community lands have been titled and designated for Indigenous peoples between 2005 and 2014. It is estimates that the area claimed by indigenous peoples in Venezuela could cover 38.81 Mha, based on the assumption that the protected areas in the country coincide with the areas claimed by the indigenous peoples, itself based on the historical occupation of Indigenous peoples and their current demands for recognition. This estimate is lower than that of Garnet et. al. (2018) who have drawn on RAISG and IWGIA data to conclude that the indigenous area in Venezuela is 46.1 mha. The lower conservative estimate is taken here.
RRI, 2020. Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Study-Final-1.pdf