

LandMark data quality standards for community-level data
to be displayed on the platform

By LandMark Secretariat (updated 2024)

LandMark aims to gather and display the highest quality data available on Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Lands, Territories, and Natural Resource Rights into a single geographic platform. The community-level data and information displayed on LandMark are assembled from many different sources and providers. To ensure high quality and accurate information, the Secretariat and Steering Group have instituted the following quality-control measures as a minimum standard for accepting and posting community-level data on LandMark.

DATA

The following criteria represent the minimum standards for community-level data to be displayed on LandMark:

- **Digital:** The geographic information for indigenous and community lands contributed to LandMark must be in a georeferenced digital format (shapefiles, geodatabase, lat/long coordinates, etc.). Both polygon and point data are accepted. In cases where data are digitized from paper or static maps, such in as pdf or jpg format, then the data are posted on the Indicative data layer, due to their lower standard of precision.
- **Complete:** Datasets should ideally have a minimum set of attribute information in order to be displayed on the platform. The full list of attributes displayed on LandMark are shown in the table below. Core attributes are noted with a star (*) and in bold. Data cannot be posted without these core attributes completed.

Attribute Table for Community-Level Data

Name	What is the name of the selected indigenous or community land?
Country	In what country is the indigenous/community land located?
*Identity	How does the community self-identify? As Indigenous Peoples or as non-indigenous local community? When unclear or unknown, the land is presented as community land.
*Recognition status	Is the indigenous or community land formally recognized by law or decree (e.g. recognized as the property or as lawfully occupied and used by Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities)? Presented as "Acknowledged by government" or "Not acknowledged by government" or "Unknown" for Indicative lands
*Documentation status (Date)	<p>What is the documentation status of the land (e.g. the stage of lawful ownership or occupation endowment process)?</p> <p>For traditional or customary land rights acknowledged by the government, there are two documentation status categories :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documented (e.g. the land is formally documented and registered) - Not documented (e.g. the land is either in the process of titling or do not require a formal title) <p>For traditional or customary land rights NOT acknowledged by the government, there are two documentation status categories:</p>

Attribute Table for Community-Level Data

- **Held or used with formal land claim submitted** (e.g., a submission by the community of an application, claim, or other process to have the land formally recognized)
- **Held or used under customary tenure (without formal land claim submitted)**

The date field displays the year that the land attained the specified documentation status (if known).

Land category	What is the categorical name that the local state gives to this type of indigenous or community land? (e.g. indigenous territories, tribal lands, village lands, communal lands, customary lands).
Ethnic groups	What are the names of the principal ethnic groups that reside on the indigenous or community land?
Population (Source, Date)	How many people normally reside on the indigenous or community land? <i>Includes the source and date of the estimate or census.</i>
Land area, official and GIS	What is the official area of the indigenous or community land, as stated in the formal documents (only applies to formally recognized lands)? What is the area of the land as calculated in GIS? <i>All areas are in hectares.</i> If the community land is not officially mapped or with GIS information, please indicate the estimated size of the area, followed by (est.).
Acquisition scale	What is the scale at which the land data were collected or georeferenced?
Acquisition method	What was the method used to acquire the indigenous or community land data (e.g., hand-held GPS, transcribed from land title)?
*Data source (Date)	Which individual or organization created the data that are shown on LandMark? May or may not be the same as the contributing institution. Includes date that data were created or last edited.
Data contributor	Which individual or organization provided the data to LandMark?
More info	A web link to more detailed information.
Additional notes	Additional notes to explain or clarify any information provided about the indigenous or community land.

DATA PROVIDERS

The following criteria represent the minimum standards for data providers who request their data to be displayed on LandMark:

- **Representative:** Data providers must have the approval of the concerned Indigenous Peoples or communities before submitting information and maps of their land to LandMark.
- **Transparent:** Data providers should as much as possible detail the methods they used for data collection and generate complete metadata to ensure full transparency. When weaknesses are known in the data, they should be flagged and noted in the metadata.
- **Authoritative:** The data provider is considered an authoritative source of information for the indigenous or community land maps that they produce and/or provide to LandMark.
- **Removal of Data.** Data providers reserve the right to remove and recall their dataset at any time from the LandMark platform. Similarly, the LandMark Secretariat reserves the right to remove any dataset from the platform at any time if quality comes into question after posting on LandMark and/or there is a lack of accountability or responsiveness from the data provider in responding to questions of data accuracy/quality or other requests for information about the data.