

Estimating National Percentages of Indigenous and Community Lands
'Methods and Findings for the Americas'

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This document details the findings of the literature reviews used to estimate the area of community lands in the Americas (formally recognized/acknowledged 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](#).
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 (i.e., not acknowledged by government) 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 the date in the heading of this document. 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 alphabetically by country name. Only countries that have been assessed or where some partial information has been found are presented.

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COUNTRY BY COUNTRY DETAILED ESTIMATES

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

According to the Barbuda Land Act, 2007 section 3: "Barbuda land is owned in common by Barbudans...". Thus, we consider here that the whole island of Barbuda (16,060 ha) is formally recognized as Community land. This represents 37.4% of Antigua and Barbuda lands as a whole.

No information was found regarding possible community lands in the Antigua Island.

ARGENTINA

Lands managed and owned by Indigenous Peoples total 3.56 Mha (1.3% of Argentina landmass), either as Titled Indigenous Community Lands (2.27 Mha) or Indigenous Community Land in the Process of Recognition (1.29 Mha) which are already in their possession.

The estimated 11.44 Mha (4.18% of the country area) yet to be formally recognized as indigenous lands reflect the government estimate that 15 Mha of land are occupied by Indigenous Communities (INAI, 2012), less the areas to which Indigenous Communities' rights have been recognized.

Sources:

Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

INAI, 2012. Informe de Auditoria : Programa 16 - Atencion y Desarrollo de Poblaciones Indigenas. Available at: http://agn.gov.ar/files/informes/2012_083info.pdf

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.

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and Sille Stidsen, 2007. The Indigenous World 2007. Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. Available at: http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/0083_NY-THE_INDIGENOUS_ORLD-2007.pdf

BERMUDA (UK)

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

Source: Minority Rights Group International, 2007. World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Bermuda, Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4954ce0cc.html>

BOLIVIA

Indigenous peoples and local communities in Bolivia have their land rights formally recognized over a total area of 36.15 Mha (33.4% 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 16.4 Mha are also known to be claimed under these different land rights categories but are still without formal recognition,

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020, Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

BRAZIL

109.47 Mha (13.1% of Brazil land area) is currently owned by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendent communities as titled Terras Indígenas and Territórios Quilombolas (respectively). In addition, other traditional communities (such as raizeiros, pantaneiros, seringueiros, faxinalenses, piaçaveiros, coletores de babaçu, castanha do Pará, and other traditional peoples of the forest) have 40.24 Mha (4.81% of the country landmass) designated for them as conservation units combining environmental and cultural preservation objectives (RESEX, RDS, and FLONAS), or under particular types of settlements designed to promote sustainable collective land management (PAE, PDS, PEAE, and PAF). Thus, a total of 149.71 Mha (17.91% of Brazil) is currently recognized as ILPC lands.

The total area of IPLC lands lacking formal recognition, including Terras Indígenas which have not yet completed the titling process and Territórios Quilombolas under claim, is estimated to add-up to 18.91 Mha (2.26% of the country land area). Yet, this is likely to be an underestimate, as the area of Terras Indígenas in the early stages of regularization is unknown, the area of unrecognized Quilombola territories is an extrapolation based on 1,748 claims from Quilombola communities for land regularization at the federal level but does not include requests states such as Maranhão, Pará, Piauí, and Bahia, and not data is available regarding other traditional communities land claims.

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020, Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

CANADA

In Canada, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities currently hold ownership over 65.93 Mha (7.35% of the country land area) as Modern Treaty Lands, Reserves, Lands in the Kanesatake Mohawk interim land base, and Tsilhqot'in Nation Declared Aboriginal Title Land. Additional Modern Treaties lands, First Nation Woodland Licenses (British Columbia), Sustainable Forest Licenses (Ontario), Ententes de délégation de gestion (Québec), and the Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative (Nova Scotia) also designate an extra 312.57 Mha to them (34.86% of Canada landmass). This represents a total of 378.50 Mha legally recognized.

Still, an estimated 348.78 Mha of Claims and Assertions are still to be resolved, based on geospatial data from the Department of Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Government of Canada.

Note: some of these unresolved land claims may overlap with already existing land rights granted to other Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020, Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

CHILE

0.14 Mha of Areas protegidas con convenios de administración con comunidades and Concesiones de Uso are designated for Indigenous peoples and local communities in Chile (0.19% of the country land area). Additionally, 2.51 Mha (3.37% 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 10.55 Mha (14.19% of the country land area). These include Protected Areas claimed or occupied by communities, claims by Comunidad Agrícola Diaguita Huasco Alto, and Afro-Chilean land claims.

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

COLOMBIA

35.91% of Columbia land area is owned by Indigenous peoples and local communities as Tierras de las Comunidades Negras, Resguardos Indígenas, and Zonas Reservas Campesinas, totaling 39.84 Mha.

An additional area of 9.43 Mha (8.5% of Colombia landmass) of unrecognized Resguardos Indígenas, Tierras de las Comunidades Negras, and Zonas Reservas Campesinas is currently claimed by IPLC in the country.

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

COSTA RICA

There are 8 Indigenous peoples in Costa Rica, occupying 0.33 Mha (6.46% of the country land area) divided into 24 different territories formally recognized as owned by Indigenous peoples.

The 0.8 Mha of 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 Indígena 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>

Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

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:

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and Sille Stidsen, 2007. The Indigenous World 2007. Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. Available at: http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/0083_NY-THE_INDIGENOUS_ORLD-2007.pdf

ECUADOR

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities currently own 5.18 Mha of lands in Ecuador, as Territorios ancestrales de las comunidades, pueblos y nacionalidades indígenas, afroecuatorianos y montubios. In addition, 1.19 Mha are designated to them in Intangible zones when their territories intersect with protected areas. Thus, in total, IPLC currently hold 6.37 Mha in the country (25.66% of its total landmass).

Unrecognized Indigenous territories and Afro-descendant claims currently cover 1.53 Mha (6.17 % of the country area).

Note: It has to be noted that these figures are likely to be underestimate, as they are extracted from available geographic information from the RAISG dataset, which only covers the Amazon basin.

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.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.

Source:

James Anaya, 2013, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Addendum, The situation of Indigenous Peoples in El Salvador, UN doc. A/HRC/24/41/Add.2.

Available at: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/150/14/PDF/G1315014.pdf?OpenElement>.

FALKLAND ISLANDS / MALVINAS (BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORY)

There are no Indigenous Peoples in the Falkland islands which were 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:

James Jay Carafano, 2005. Falkland/Malvinas Islands. In Will Kaufman; Heidi Slettedahl Macpherson. "Britain and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History". Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO. Available at: <https://books.google.fr/books?id=HbBbn3x7PZsC>

G. Hattersley-Smith, 1983. Fuegian Indians in the Falkland Islands. Polar Record, 21, pp 605-606. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S003224740002204X>

FRENCH GUIANA

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/Milieus Oyapock, CNRS Guyane. Available at: http://www.guyane.cnrs.fr/IMG/pdf/2014_rapport_ZDUC_final.pdf

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 :

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and Mikkelsen, C., 2015. The Indigenous World, 2015. Copenhagen, Denmark: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. Available at : http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/0716_THE_INDIGENOUS_ORLD_2015_eb.pdf

Jens Dahl, personal communication on 2015/09/21

Nick Tagliarino, 2015. Indicators of the Legal Security of Indigenous and Community Lands [Data file from LandMark: The Global Platform of Indigenous and Community Lands]. Available from: www.landmarkmap.org.

Adam Worm, Deputy Head, Greenland Representation in Denmark, personal communication on 2015/11/02

GUATEMALA

0.37 Mha (3.47% of the country land area) are designated for Indigenous peoples and local communities as Concesiones Comunitarias, and 1.62 Mha (15.08% of the country land area) are Communal Lands owned by them. In total, 18.55% of Guatemala is formally recognized as indigenous and/or community lands.

The estimate of 4.2 Mha unrecognized community lands refers to lands that Mesa de Tierras Comunales has determined could be recovered through strategic litigation.

Sources: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

GUYANA

Titled Amerindian Village Land, Community Forest Management Agreements, and Amerindian Protected Areas are designated lands for Indigenous peoples and local communities in Guyana. They cover a total of 4.57 Mha (23.2% of the country land area).

The Afro-descendant and Amerindian unrecognized land claims are estimated to cover 10.46 Mha (53.11% of the country land area).

Sources: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

HONDURAS

131 Community Forest Management Contracts have been issued in national areas, municipalities, and one Private Mestizo Community Property, so that 0.44 Mha (3.91% of the country land area) are currently designated for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples' Property Rights (outside of the Gracias a Dios department) and Intercommunity Titles granted to Territorial Councils cover an extra 1.7 Mha (15.23% of Honduras landmass) under IPLC ownership.

In addition, 1.85 Mha (16.53% of the country lands are) of IPLC lands are estimated to lack formal recognition.

Sources: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020.

Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

MEXICO

Ejidos and communities are some forms of communal land ownership formally recognized to Indigenous peoples and local communities in Mexico; they cover 99.71 Mha, which represents 51.29% of the country land area. The claimed area refers to "not executed" Ejidos and "not executed" Comunidades, which total 0.87 Mha.

Sources: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.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.

Source: Eckart Boege Schmidt, 2008, El patrimonio biocultural de los pueblos indígenas de México. Hacia la conservación in situ de la biodiversidad y agrodiversidad en los territorios indígenas. México: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia: Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas. 344 p. Available at: http://www.cdi.gob.mx/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=937

NICARAGUA

Across Nicaragua, 3,78 Mha (31.45% of the country land area) have been designated for Indigenous peoples and afro-descendent communities under Propiedad Comunal. Yet, an extra 3,58 Mha (29.75% of the Nicaragua's lands) are estimated to be IPLC lands still lacking formal recognition.

Sources: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

PANAMA

As of 2020, Indigenous peoples and local communities own 1.9 Mha (25.65% of Panama's lands) under Territorio de los Pueblos Indígenas (las Comarcas y las Tierras Colectivas) and Asentamientos Campesinos.

Yet, an estimated 0.8 Mha of IPLC lands lack formal recognition (10.73% of the country landmass).

Sources: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.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 46.36million 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:

Instituto del Bien Común (IBC), 2016. Tierras Comunales: Más que Preservar el Pasado es Asegurar el Futuro. El estado de las comunidades indígenas en el Perú - Informe 2016. Lima, Perú. http://www.ibcperu.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Informe-2016-TIERRAS-COMUNALES_lg.pdf;

Richard Chase Smith, personal communications, August 29, 2018;

SICCAM. 2018. Sistema de Información sobre Comunidades Campesinas. <http://www.ibcperu.org/mapas/siccam/>. Spatial data provided by IBC as of July 2018;

SICNA. 2018. Sistema de Información sobre Comunidades Nativas de la Amazonía Peruana. <http://www.ibcperu.org/servicios/sicna/>. Spatial data provided by IBC as of August 2018.

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:

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and Sille Stidsen, 2007. The Indigenous World 2007. Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. Available at: http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/0083_NY-THE_INDIGENOUS_ORLD-2007.pdf

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), with possible overlaps, and it does not include community claims in the coastal area of the country and to that extent, is an underestimate.

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023. Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf

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:

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and Sille Stidsen, 2007. The Indigenous World 2007. Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. Available at: http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/0083_NY-THE_INDIGENOUS_ORLD-2007.pdf

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

GIS calculations on government data show that lands legally recognized to indigenous peoples in the USA cover a total of 48.87 Mha (5.34% of the country land area). They include American Indian reservations (federal and state recognized, or joint-use areas), Off-reservation trust lands, Hawaiian home lands, Alaska ANCSA Conveyances, and Alaska Native allotments.

In addition, 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.

Sources:

US. Census Bureau, 2015, 2015 TIGER/Line® Shapefiles: American Indian Area Geography, <https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-line.html>

U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 2015, SDMS Land & Resources Map Interface, <http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/sdms/>

Other disputed indigenous territorial claims still exist 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:

James Anaya, 2012. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, The situation of indigenous peoples in the United States of America. UN doc. A/HRC/21/47/Add.1. Available at: <http://unsr.jamesanaya.org/country-reports/the-situation-of-indigenous-peoples-in-the-united-states-of-america>

VENEZUELA

In Venezuela, 3.28 Mha of community lands have been titled and designated for Indigenous peoples (thus covering 3.72% of the country land area). Unresolved IPLC land claims could cover an additional 42.85 Mha (48.58% of Venezuela landmass).

Source: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023, Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020. Second Edition. Washington, DC: RRI. Available at: https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-Owns-the-Worlds-Land_Final-EN.pdf