

---

# Realizing Rights, Achieving Forest Conservation

---

Dr. Solange Bandiaky Badji

President & Coordinator, RRI

***Megaflorestais 2023***

[rightsandresources.org](https://rightsandresources.org)





# WHO OWNS THE WORLD'S LAND?

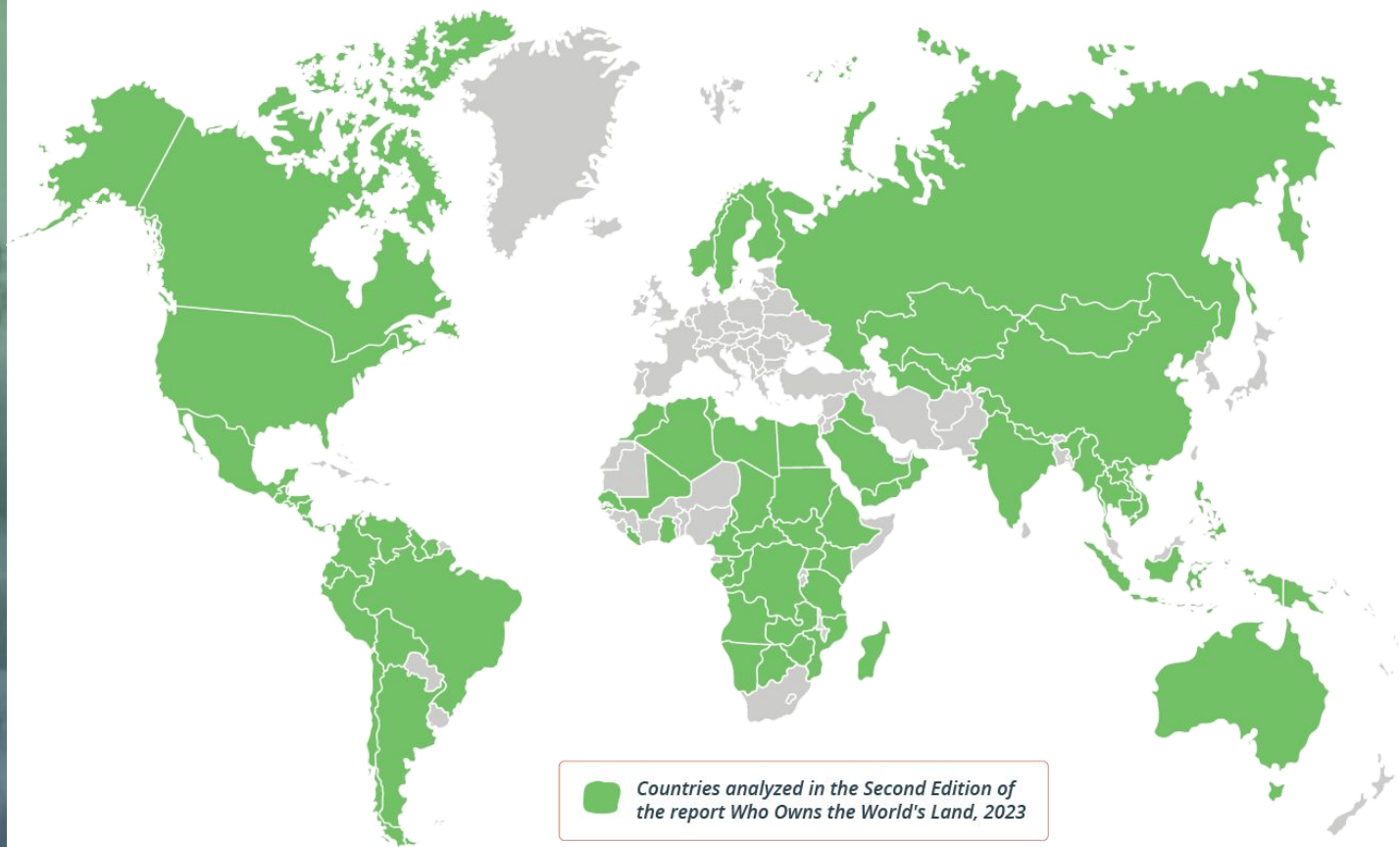
SECOND EDITION (2023)



**WHO OWNS THE WORLD'S FOREST |  
WHO OWNS THE WORLD'S CARBON?**

**THE REPORT'S DATA  
COVERS 73 COUNTRIES,  
OVER 85% OF EARTH'S  
LAND AREA, AND THE  
PERIOD 2015-2020.**

---



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,  
LOCAL COMMUNITIES &  
AFRO-DESCENDANT  
PEOPLES NOW OWN  
OVER 11% OF EARTH'S  
LANDS.

---

THEY COMPRISE ABOUT  
2.5 BILLION OF EARTH'S  
POPULATION.

### Distribution of Statutory Land Tenure Across 73 Countries



**82%** *Area Owned by  
Governments, Private  
Individuals, or Firms*

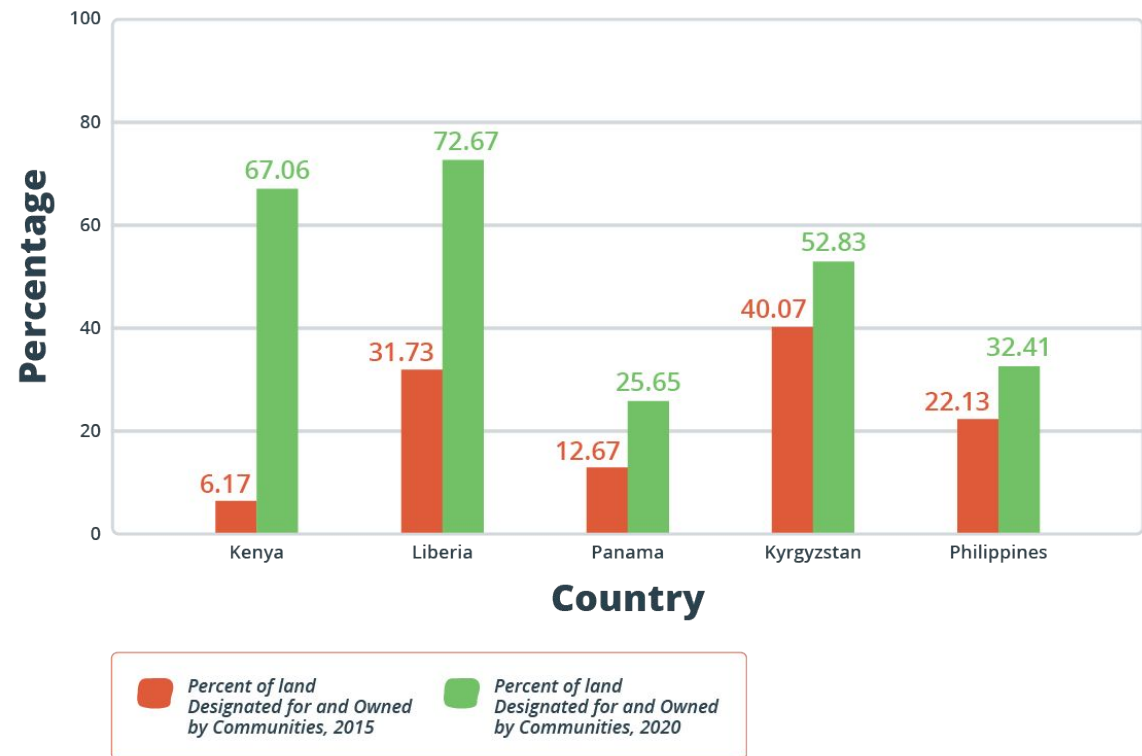
**11%** *Area Owned by  
Indigenous Peoples,  
Afro-descendant Peoples,  
and Local Communities*

**7%** *Area Designated for  
Indigenous Peoples,  
Afro-descendant Peoples,  
and Local Communities*

**THE BIGGEST LEGAL WINS  
WERE SEEN IN FIVE  
COUNTRIES, WITH LARGE %  
GAINS IN KENYA AND  
LIBERIA.**

**LEGAL WINS**

**Increase in land designated for and owned by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities (2015–2020), by percent of total country land area**



DESPITE THESE GAINS,  
LARGE GAPS IN  
RECOGNITION REMAIN,  
AND MOST PROGRESS IS  
CONCENTRATED IN A  
HANDFUL OF COUNTRIES.

---



---

In 49 countries with  
available data, more than

**1,375**  
**Mha**

**of communities'**  
**lands**

have not yet been  
legally recognized

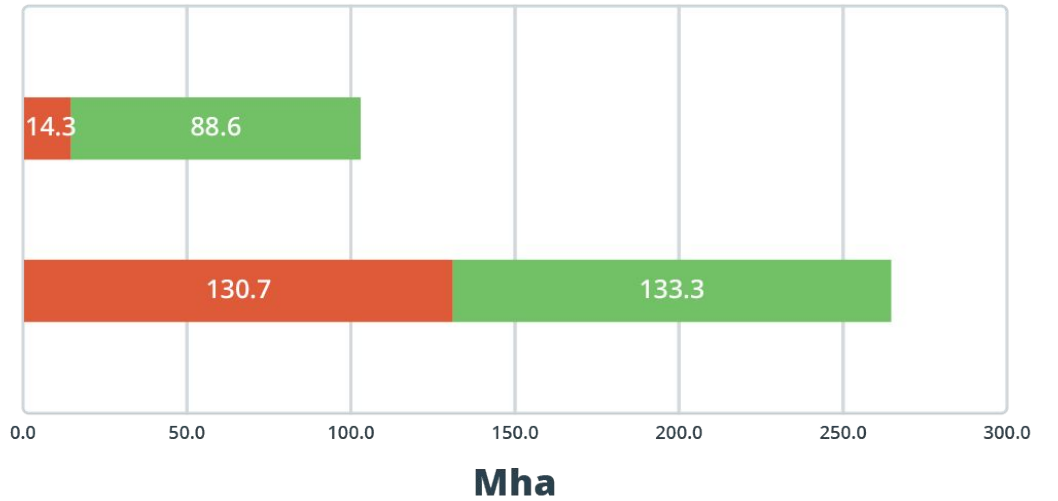
*(that's an area slightly  
smaller than Antarctica)*

---

**IN 19 COUNTRIES,  
IMPLEMENTING EXISTING  
LAWS CAN IMMEDIATELY  
SECURE AT LEAST 260 MHA  
FOR COMMUNITIES.**

**Rights Recognition from  
2015–2020, and Potential for  
Scaling Up**

**2015–2020  
gains**



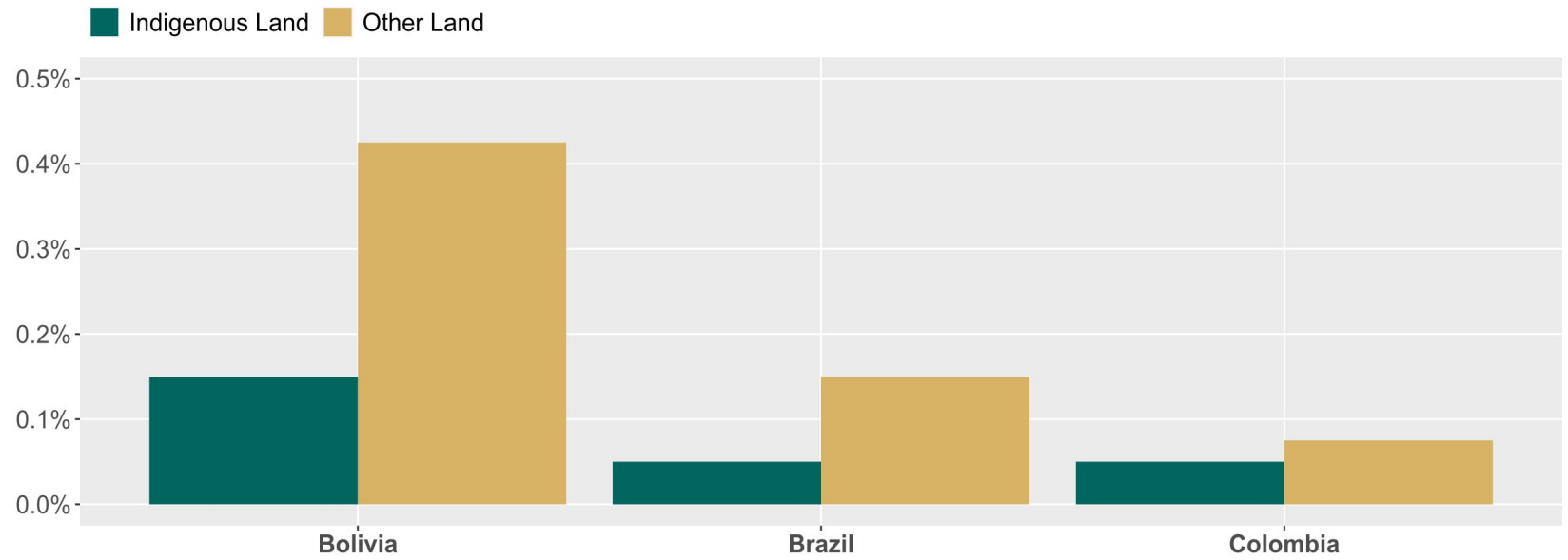
**Potential for  
additional  
recognition**

**Designated for Indigenous Peoples,  
Afro-descendant Peoples, and  
Local Communities**

**Owned by Indigenous Peoples,  
Afro-descendant Peoples, and  
Local Communities**

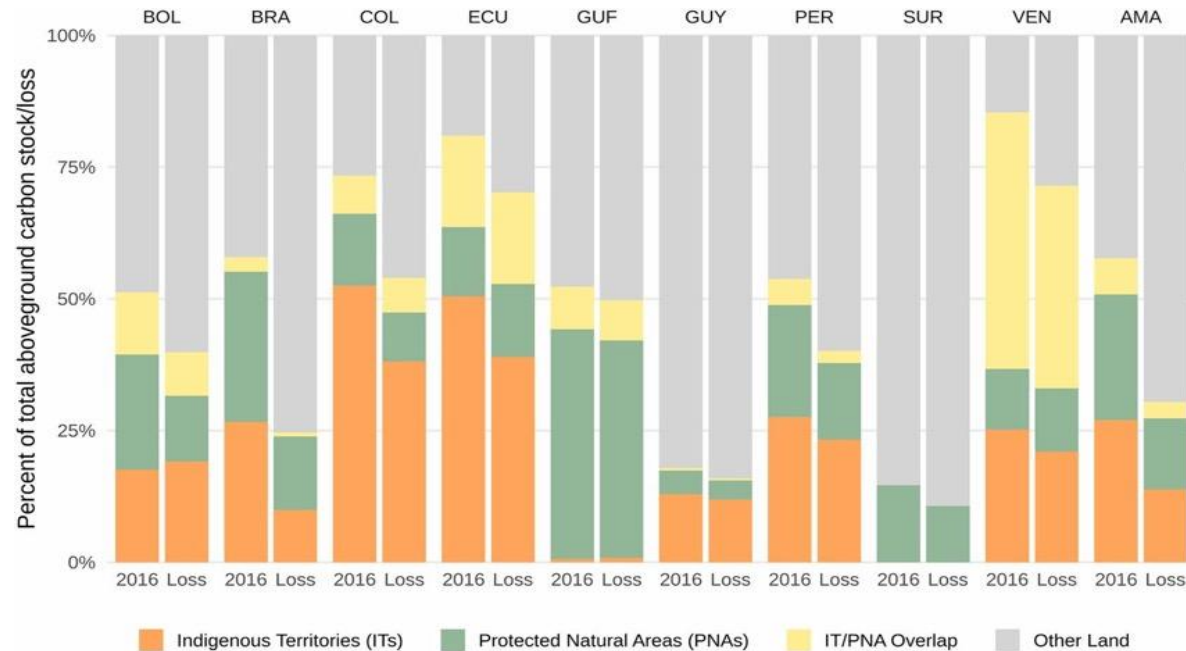
**Forest lands** owned and managed by Indigenous and local communities exhibit:

- ✓ Lower deforestation
- ✓ More carbon stored
- ✓ Greater biodiversity



**Annual Deforestation Rates in Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia (2000- 2021)**

Source: WRI



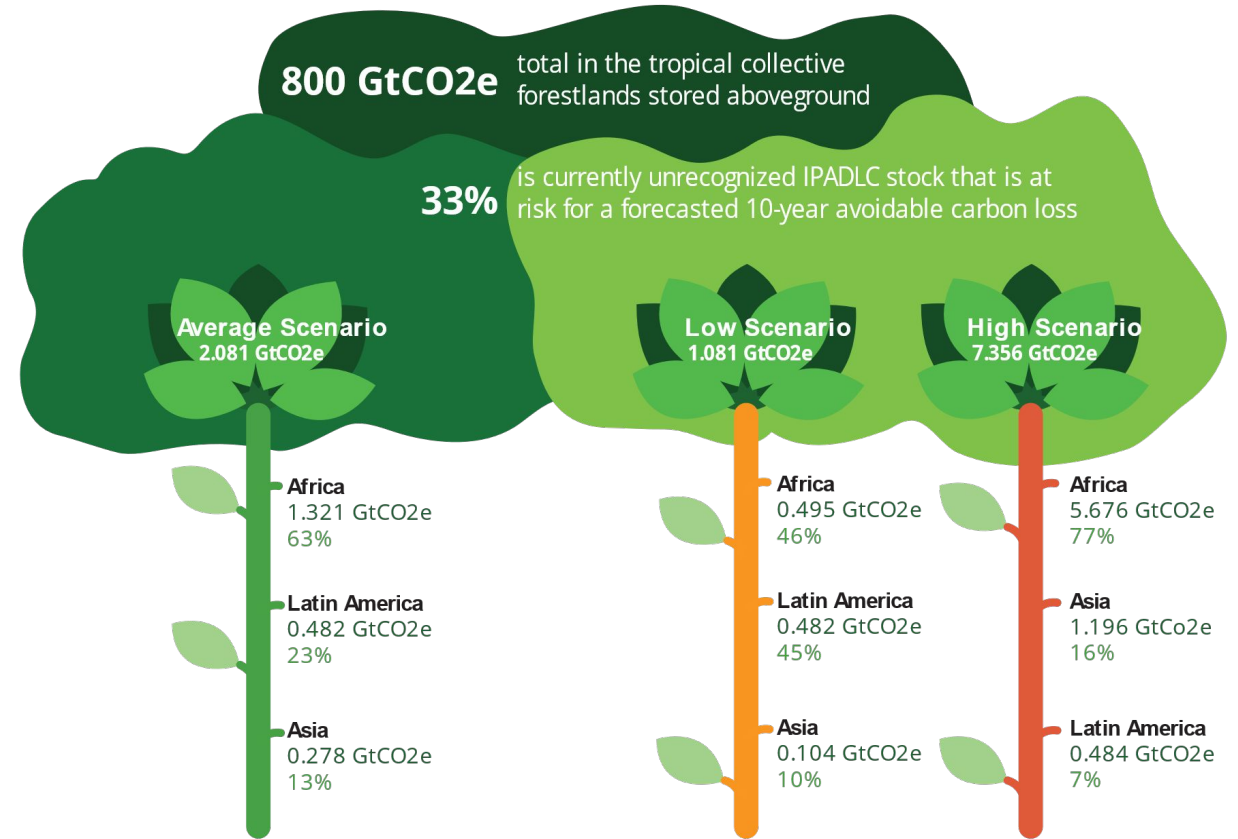
Distribution of aboveground carbon stock (2016) and loss (2003 - 2016) by region across ITs, PNAs, regions of IT/PNA overlap, and Other Land.

Source: Walker et al. (2020)



Community-based tenure security is fundamental to achieving global climate and biodiversity goals.

- **91% of community lands are in moderate to good ecological condition** (WWF et al, 2021)
- **Communities manage at least 22% (218 gigatons) of total carbon in tropical and subtropical forests** (Frechette et al, 2018)
- **At least 33% of aboveground tropical forest carbon is at risk without secure tenure rights** (RRI, 2021)



# Challenges to be Addressed

---



## **Legal Frameworks**

- Partial recognition of rights, procedural restrictions, inadequate provisions for FPIC or women's rights.
- Gaps in implementation; risks of rollbacks.
- Vulnerability to infringements from expanded conservation, climate/development projects.

## **Government Support and Capacities**

- Weak integration of Indigenous and Human Rights in NDCs & NBSAPs.
- Activities that threaten nature and rights continue to be promoted.

## **Funding**

- Less than 1% of ODA for climate change goes to community tenure and forest management.
- Only a fraction of available funds goes to rightsholders' organizations and communities.
- Mismatch between financing priorities and rightsholder organizations' needs and capacities.

# Challenges to be Addressed (contd.)

---



## **Community-Based Management, Use & Governance**

- Insufficient participation in national / international decision-making.
- Inadequate support for self-determined pathways and livelihoods

## **Safeguards, Monitoring, and Accountability**

- Limited social and environmental integrity of climate, development and conservation efforts.

# Rights in Climate & Biodiversity

## Maximize Results

Actions that prioritize equity, justice, inclusion, and rights produce **more** sustainable and climate resilient outcomes with fewer trade-offs (IPCC AR6).

## Ensure Inter-Generational Equity & Sustainability

Failure to respond to best available science contravenes human rights obligations and places the planet and people at risk

## Strengthen Policy Coherence & Synergies

Essential to realize climate & biodiversity commitments in context of equity, poverty eradication, and pursuit of the 2030 SDG agenda

## Minimize Risks

Recognition of IP & LC tenure rights, traditional knowledge, values + practices, cultural identity, self-determination and their effective participation in decision-making are critical to avoid long term socio-economic and environmental impacts

# Principles for a Climate Resilient Future

- Proactively implement existing laws.
- Strengthen enabling conditions for local forest ownership + stewardship.
- Support govt. fulfilment of national and international obligations.
- Increase direct funding access + support for community-led solutions.
- Ensure effective community participation in all climate and conservation decisions.
- Empower rural women and prioritize gender-inclusive reforms.
- Strengthen bottom-up monitoring and downward accountability.



THANK YOU.

Visit our website: [rightsandresources.org](http://rightsandresources.org)

Follow us on Twitter: [@RightsResources](https://twitter.com/RightsResources)



PARTNERS

