

**10th December 2024**

# Mapping common lands



## LandMark

**Introducing**

Global Platform of Indigenous & Community Lands

[www.landmarkmap.org](http://www.landmarkmap.org)

INTERNATIONAL  
**LAND**  
COALITION

UNITED  
FOR LAND  
RIGHTS

**Matteo Sposato**

Programme officer for ILC EMENA  
Consultant on Knowledge & Research

Contact: [m.sposato@landcoalition.org](mailto:m.sposato@landcoalition.org)



# Presentation items

- What is LandMark?
- LandMark data
- LandMark's trajectory
- LandMark and Europe
- Potential concerns
- Way forward





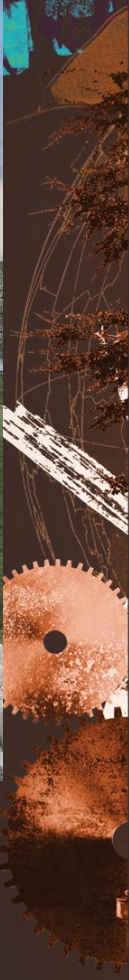
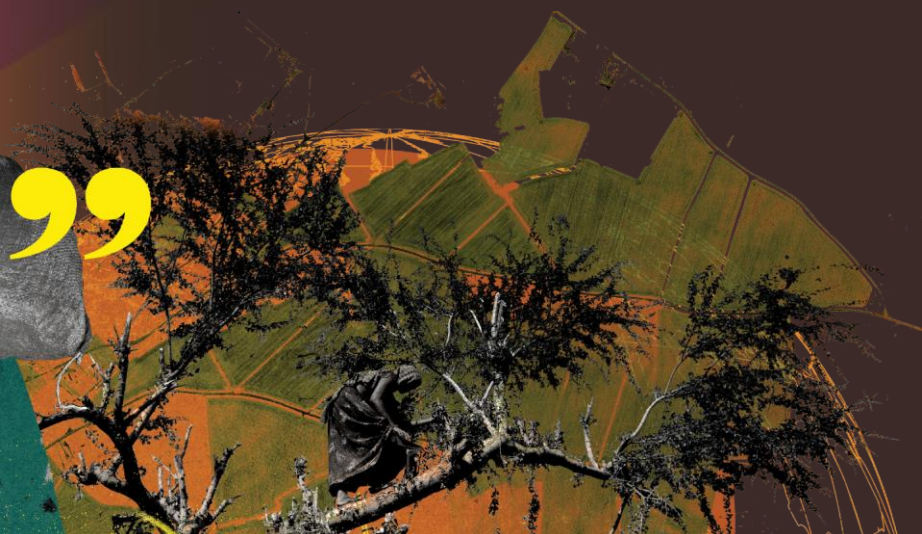
# What is LandMark?

A consortium of local, regional, and international organisations that have a mission to support Indigenous and local community land rights globally, established in 2014.

First online interactive platform showcasing territories. Enhanced version launched in 2024 with greater data coverage and improved access.



*Sinjajevina, Montenegro. Photo credit: Wake Up Flims*



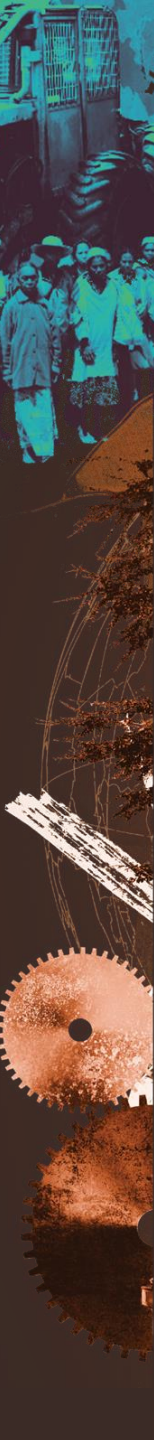


# LandMark data layers

- **Community level maps:** IP&LC lands, natural resource rights etc.
- **National level maps:** Percentage of country held by IP&LC, acknowledged and not acknowledged etc.
- **Biodiversity and climate:** Key Biodiversity Areas, Tree biomass carbon density etc.
- **Land use:** Protected areas, mining concessions etc.
- **Land cover and change:** Tree cover loss/gain, land cover etc.



”





# Overall view



- Community-level maps
- National-level maps
- Biodiversity and Climate
- Land Use
- Land Cover & Change
- Hide

### Global coverage

As of today, LandMark has mapped **34.7%** of the world's land and natural resources as held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, out of an estimated **50% or more** that experts project is actually held or used. Help us close the map gap by contributing data to LandMark.

Note that the absence of data does not indicate the absence of Indigenous or Community land.

### Indicative Areas of Indigenous and Community Land Rights

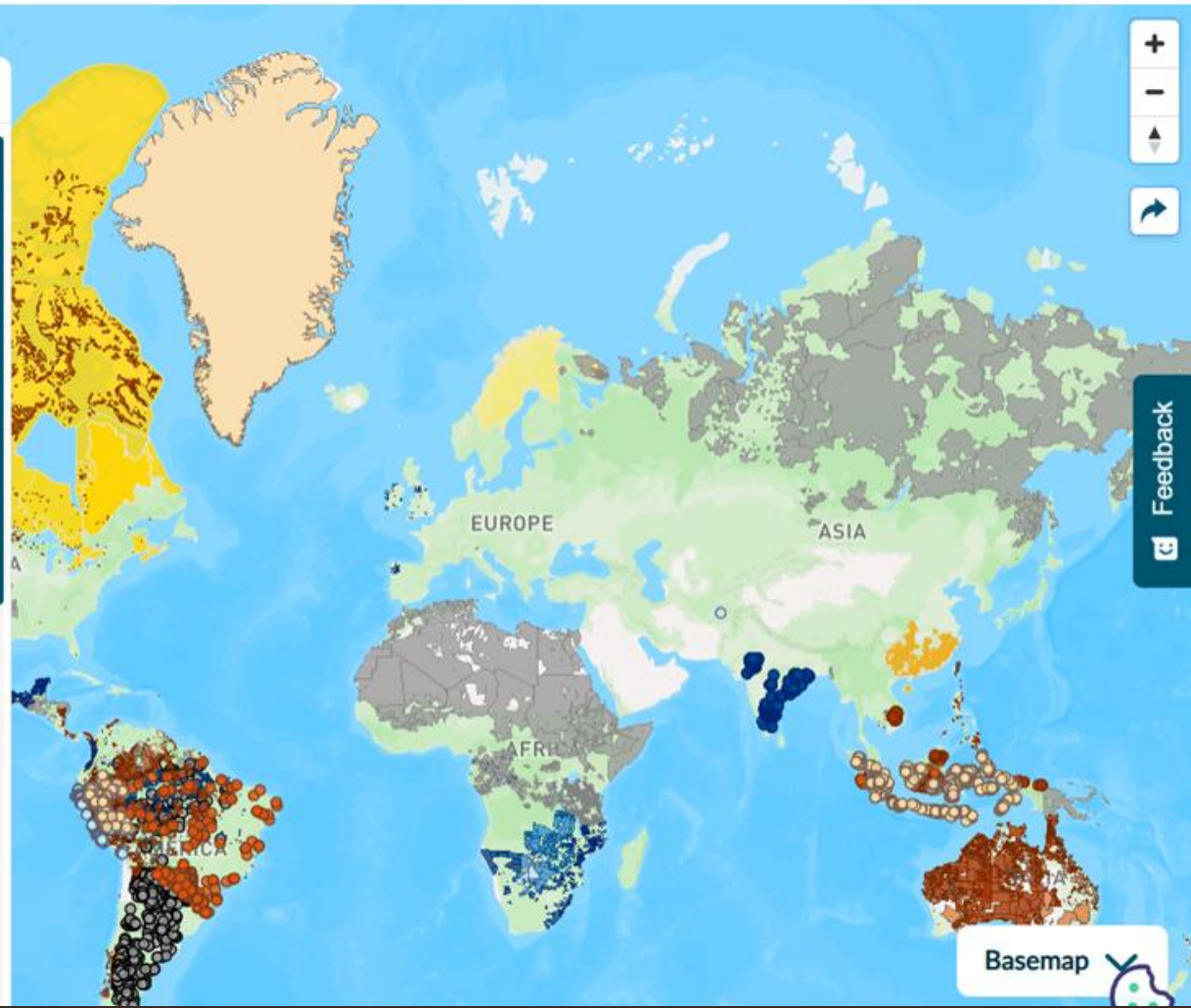
View data source & details

- Indigenous Peoples' Lands and Territories
  - Acknowledged by government
  - Not acknowledged by government

### Legend

- Indigenous Peoples' Lands and Territories**
  - Acknowledged by government**
    - Documented
    - Not documented
  - Not acknowledged by government**
    - Held or used under customary tenure
    - Held or used with formal land claim submitted
- Local Community Lands**
  - Acknowledged by government**
    - Documented
    - Not documented
  - Not acknowledged by government**
    - Held or used under customary

View layer options





# A documented area

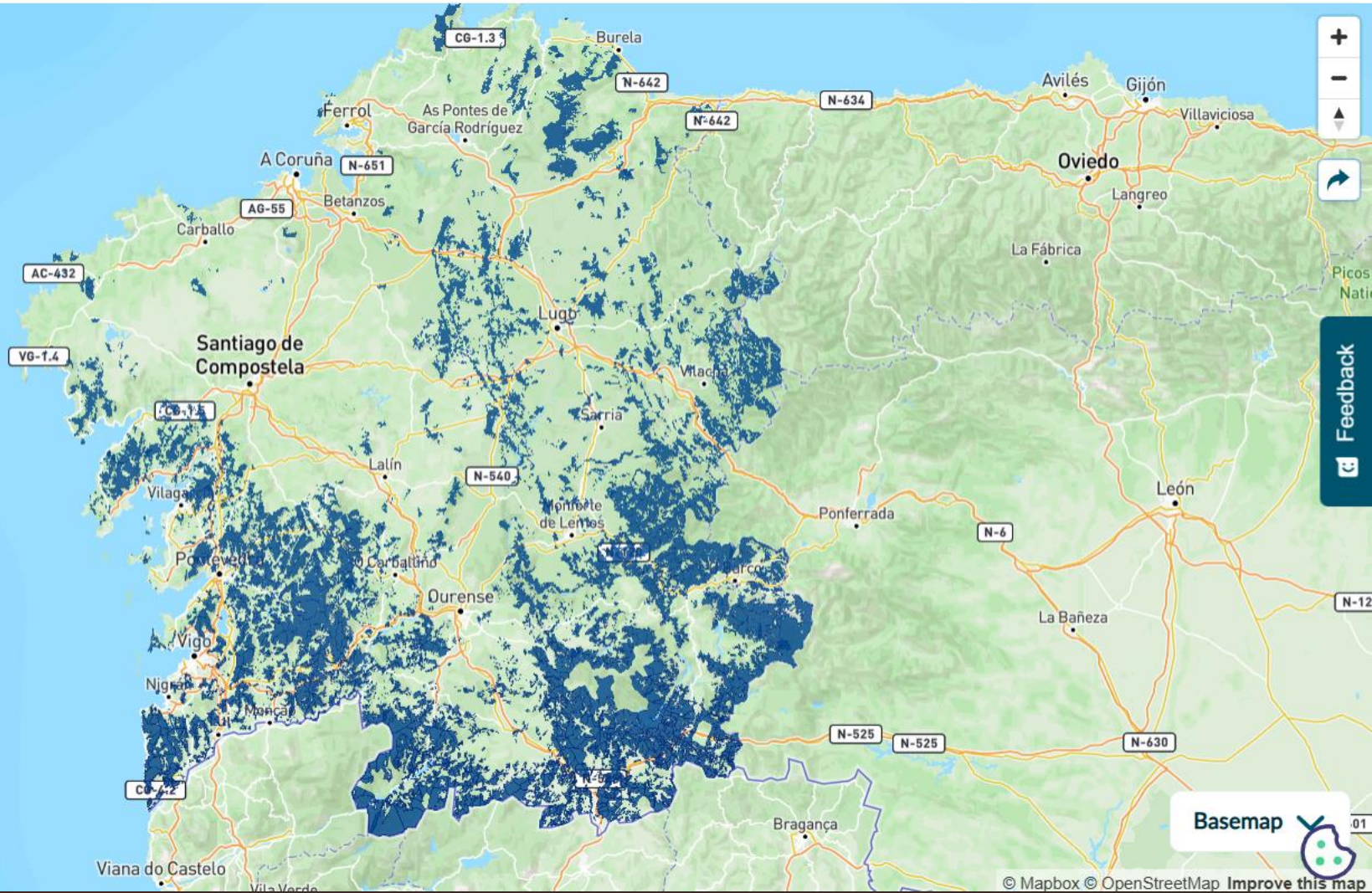


- Community-level maps
- National-level maps
- Biodiversity and Climate
- Land Use
- Land Cover & Change

### Legend

- Local Community Lands
  - Acknowledged by government
    - Documented
    - Not documented
  - Not acknowledged by government
    - Held or used under customary tenure
    - Held or used with formal land claim submitted

View layer options





# Overlaying data: key biodiversity areas

LandMark Global map About LandMark Data and methods News and Resources Help

Community-level maps National-level maps Biodiversity and Climate Land Use Land Cover & Change Hide Sidebar

## Biodiversity and Climate

Visualize data layers on biodiversity and climate change.

Click the toggles to add data layers to the map. Active data will show in the Legend with explanations of how the data is visualized.

### Biodiversity Intactness

Impacts of forest change on local biodiversity intactness.

View data source & details

### Key Biodiversity Areas

Areas that are contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.

View data source & details

### Forest Greenhouse Gas Net Flux

Net change in forest ecosystem carbon, calculated as the difference between forest greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

## Legend

- Local Community Lands**
  - Acknowledged by government
    - Documented
    - Not documented
  - Not acknowledged by government
    - Held or used under customary tenure
    - Held or used with formal land claim submitted
- Key Biodiversity Areas**
  - Key Biodiversity Areas

This dataset is available for non-commercial use only.

View layer options

mapbox

Basemap

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map



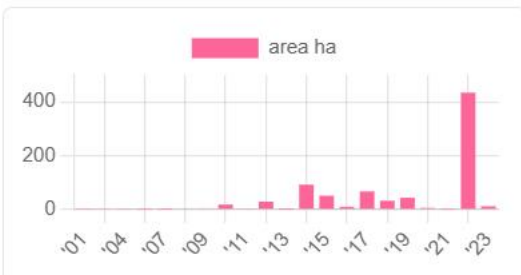
# Analysis: tree cover loss



- Community-level maps
- National-level maps
- Biodiversity and Climate
- Land Use
- Land Cover & Change

## Tree cover loss

From 2001 to 2023, Montes Baixos De Candeda E Domiz in Spain lost 0.816kha of tree cover, equivalent to 90.22% decrease in tree cover since 2000.



The methods behind this data have changed over time. Be cautious comparing old and new data, especially before/after 2015.

2000 tree cover extent | >30% tree canopy | these estimates do not take tree cover gain into account.

Source: [Global Forest Watch](#)

### Legend

- Tree Cover Loss**
  - Tree cover loss
  - Tree cover loss is not always deforestation. View data source & details for more information.
  - View layer options
- Local Community Lands**
  - Acknowledged by government**
    - Documented
    - Not documented
  - Not acknowledged by government**
    - Held or used under customary tenure
    - Held or used with formal land claim submitted
  - View layer options

Feedback



# LandMark's trajectory: beyond just maps

From data repository to greater focus on:

- Knowledge products and analyses
- Support for advocacy and visibility
- Community of practice



”

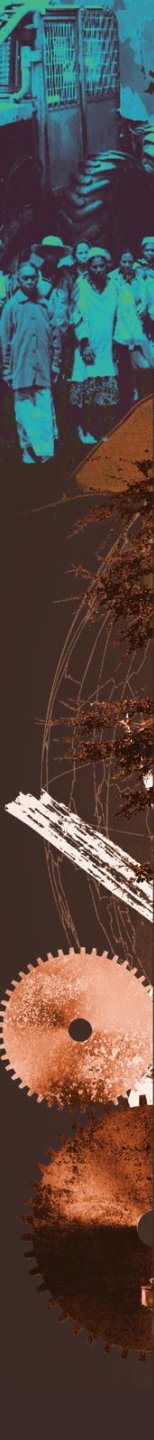


# LandMark trajectory: governance and decentralisation

Steering committee: 13 organisations, 3 of which global (ILC and WRI co-hosting LandMark's secretariat).

Decentralisation process: global secretariat with a global coordinator, but also regional communities of practice.

”





# LandMark and Europe

- **Data blind spot!** Some exceptions in Scandinavia, UK & Ireland, Spain, Italy. Current sources: local governments, NGOs – what to consider in order to grow?
- No regional organisation in current steering group, **but interest in establishing one and exploring fundraising options.**
- As part of the regionalisation, a European group could focus on its priorities (e.g. commons) and create a community of practice centred around its distinct regional context.





# Possible concerns

- Mapping flawed *per sé*
- Risks connected to visibility
- Simplification of complex realities



”





# Questions for the short-term future

- ▶ Is LandMark fit-for-purpose for representing European land commons and scaling up their advocacy efforts?
- ▶ Is there momentum and capacity to build a European community of practice?
- ▶ How to interface similar existing initiatives (e.g. ICCA Registry)?

”





10th December 2024

# Mapping common lands



## LandMark

**Introducing**

Global Platform of Indigenous & Community Lands

[www.landmarkmap.org](http://www.landmarkmap.org)

INTERNATIONAL  
**LAND**  
COALITION

UNITED  
FOR LAND  
RIGHTS

**Matteo Sposato**

Programme officer for ILC EMENA  
Consultant on Knowledge & Research

Contact: [m.sposato@landcoalition.org](mailto:m.sposato@landcoalition.org)

