

Shaping the Future of Forest Conservation in Latin America:
A Systematic Review of Potential Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

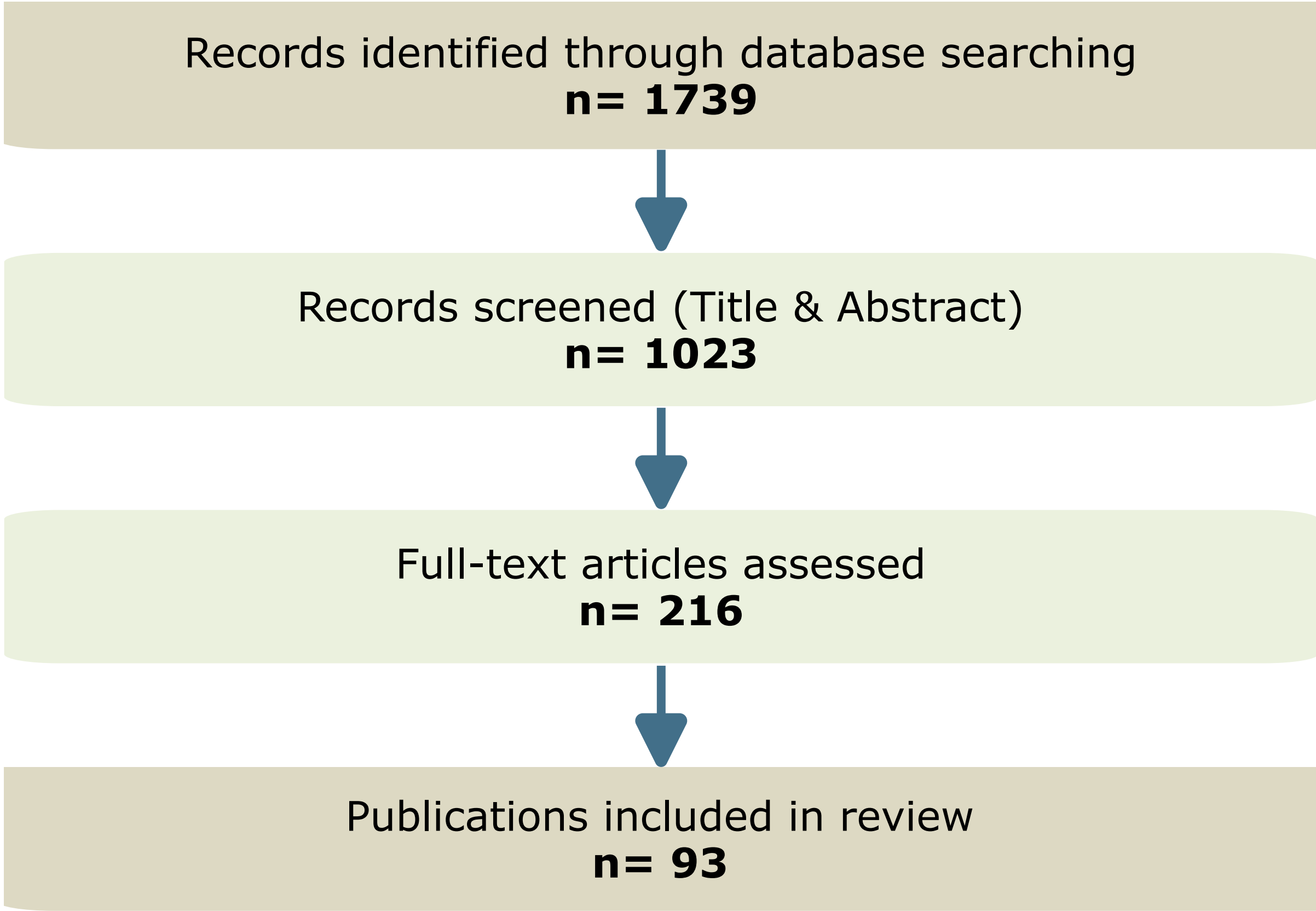
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The **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** commits countries to **conserve 30% of land by 2030**. Achieving this requires not only expanding Protected Areas but also recognizing Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs): areas outside formal PA systems that deliver sustained, in-situ biodiversity conservation. **What types of potential OECMs exist in Latin America, and how effective are they at reducing deforestation?**

ABSTRACT. This systematic review synthesizes **93 publications** assessing the effectiveness of potential OECMs in reducing deforestation across Latin America. We classify potential OECMs into six types and evaluate their conservation outcomes using different comparators. Indigenous Territories are the most frequently evaluated and consistently show reduced deforestation relative to both PAs and non-PAs, while Local Community Territories generally outperform non-PAs but underperform compared with PAs. Most evidence relies on non-experimental comparisons; quasi-experimental designs are less common but offer stronger causal inference. Despite this evidence base, very few of these areas have been formally recognized, highlighting a disconnect between available research and the formal reporting of OECMs under the Global Biodiversity Framework.

PUBLICATION SELECTION (PRISMA)



SIX CATEGORIES OF POTENTIAL OECMS



Strict Biodiversity Conservation Areas
Conservation Concessions (PE)
Native Forest Law– Red (AR)
Forest Patrimony Areas (EC)



Indigenous Peoples' Territories
Terras Indígenas (BR) · Resguardos (CO)
Comarcas (PA) · Communal Lands (EC) · Native Lands (PE)



Set-Aside Areas for Ecosystem Services
Protected Forest (EC)
Permanent Preservation Areas (BR)
Forest Reserves (CO) · Local Forest (PE)



Local Communities' Territories
Quilombos (BR) · Afrodescendant Terr.(CO)
Peasant Reserve Zones (CO)
Ejidos (MX) · Rural Settlements (BR)



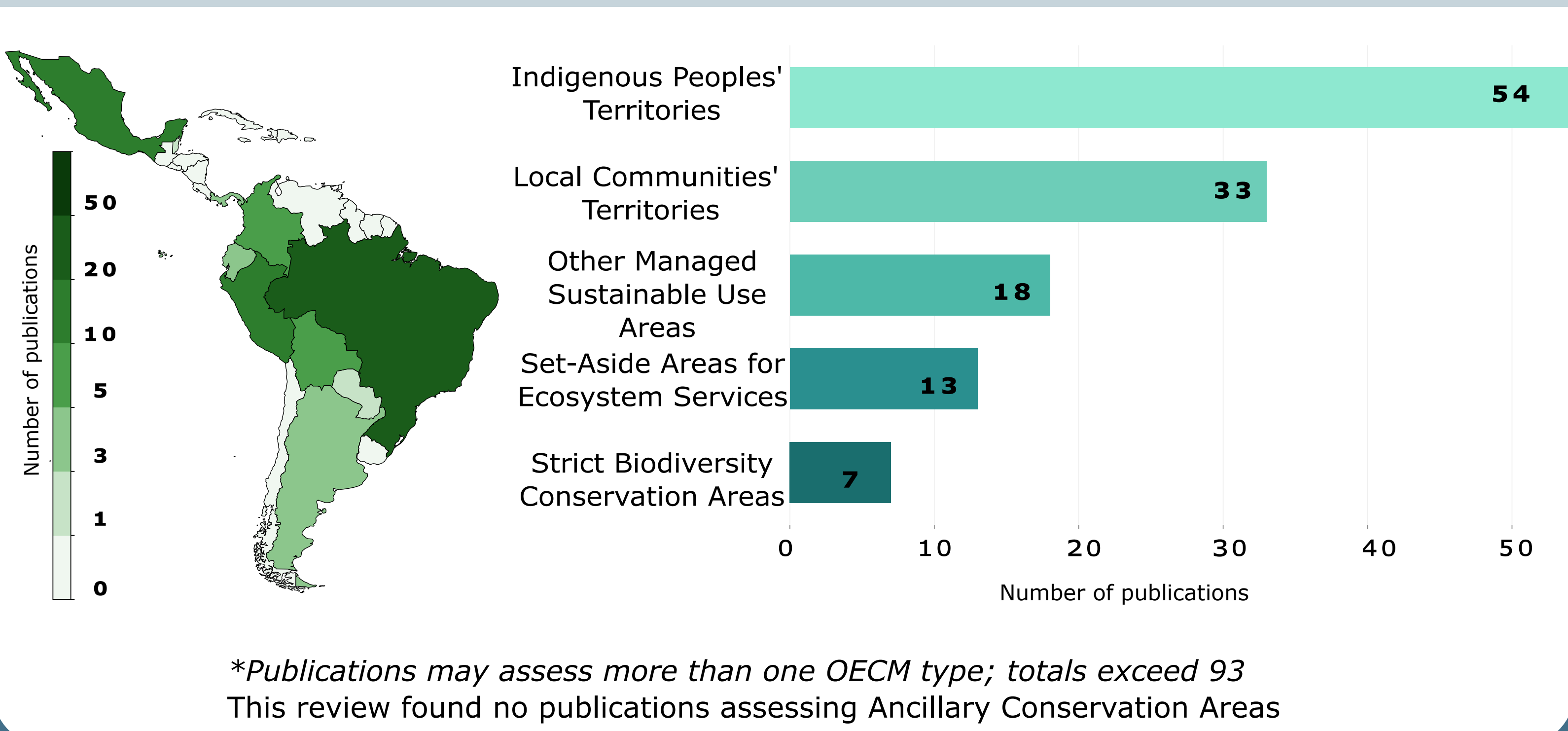
Other Managed Sustainable Use Areas
Legal Reserves (BR)
Ecotourism Concessions (PE)
Native Forest Law– Yellow (AR)



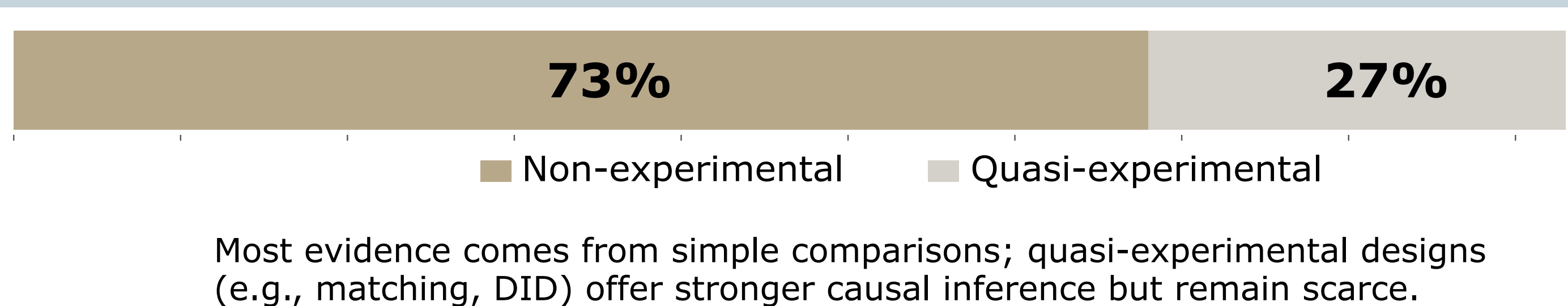
Ancillary Conservation Areas
Exclusive Fishing Zones
Military Zones

Conservation as primary objective
Conservation as secondary or primary objective
Conservation as ancillary objective

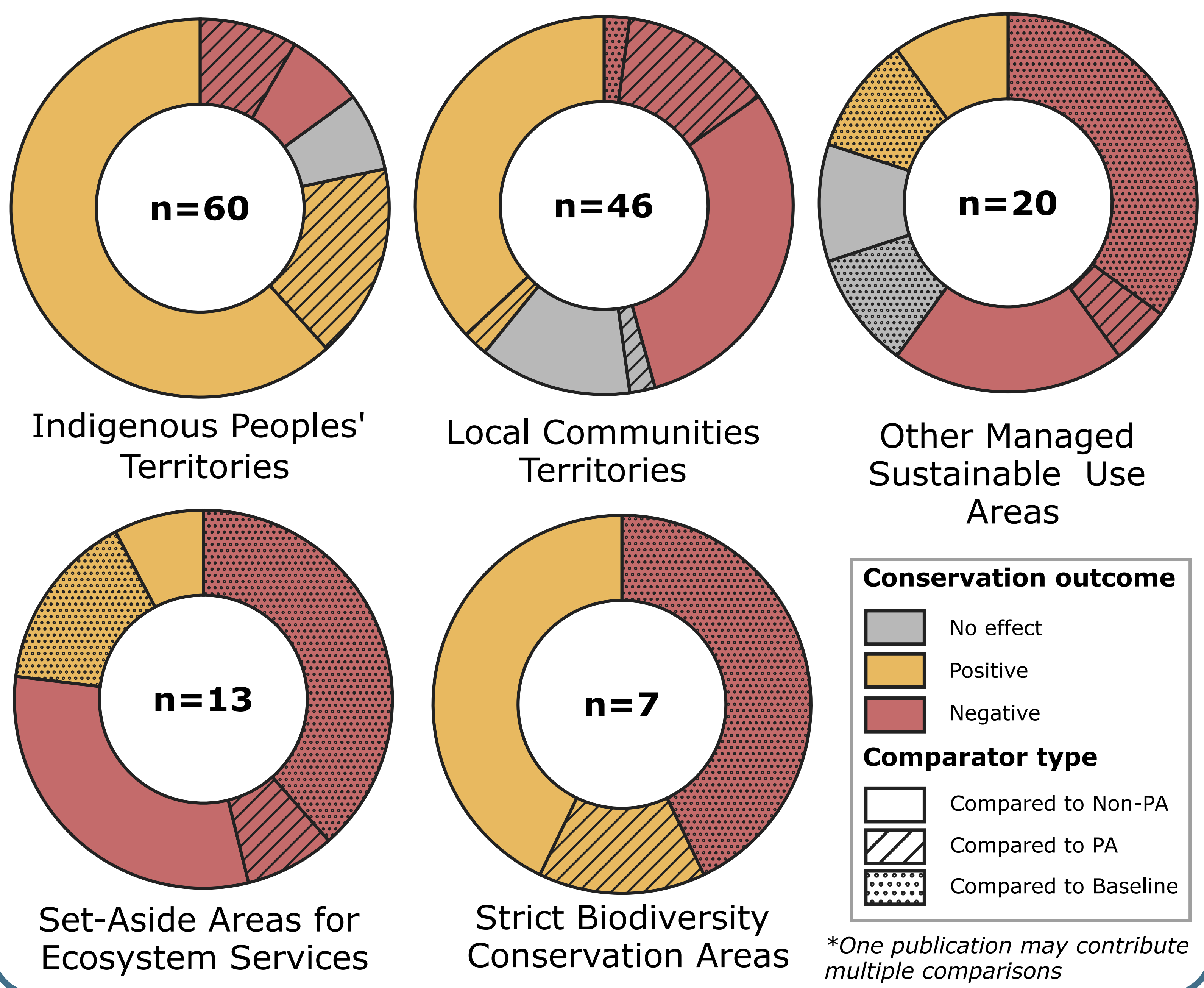
INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES DOMINATE THE LITERATURE



TYPES OF EVIDENCE IN REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS



EFFECTIVENESS VARIES DRAMATICALLY BY TYPE AND COMPARATOR



TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

- Latin America harbors a **diverse landscape of conservation** beyond PAs that remains largely unrecognized.
- Research is geographically **concentrated** in Brazil and Mexico and thematically dominated by Indigenous Peoples' Territories.
- Not all areas beyond PAs are equal; **effectiveness varies dramatically** by type and comparator: Indigenous Peoples' Territories consistently reduce deforestation.
- Stronger **causal evidence** and broader geographic coverage are needed to prevent artificially inflating the **30x30 target**.