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# LOMERIO TERRITORY: FROM THE REFUGE TO THE INDIGENOUS AUTONOMY

ÑUFLO CHAVEZ PROVINCE, DEPARTMENT OF SANTA CRUZ – BOLIVIA

*"So to not be begging the rich ... everything is for the rich and we have to buy to eat, it is shameful to see someone buying food at harvest time"*  
(Magdalena Parapaino Surubí, Community San Lorenzo)

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2014



Towards the indigenous autonomy

2010



CICOL declares Lomerio as autonomous territory

2006



Collective title as TCO

2000



Creation of the municipality of San Antonio de Lomerio

1996



Demand of Community Land of Origin (TCO)

1981



Formation of the indigenous organization of native communities of Lomerio – CICOL

1953



Establishment of union

1935



Struggle for lands

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## The location of a refuge

The indigenous territory of Lomerío is located at 380 km. northwest of the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, between the town of San Antonio de Lomerío and the municipality of San Miguel, in Ñuflo Chavez province of Santa Cruz department. The wider region corresponds to the territory of the "Great Chiquitanía", which in ancient times, was the scene of the displacement of sedentary groups of chiquitana family. At the colony times, it was administered by Jesuits reductions and at the republic, it was besieged by the big landowner exploitation. In these processes, the Spanish occupations, Jesuits reductions and potentates settled towns of white people and the indigenous persons fled and sought refuge in the Lomerío, into the forest.

## A case of indigenous demand for land and territory

The experience of the population of Lomeríos' territory has a high emphasis on achieving legislation and policies of the State, through the appropriation and advocacy of the rights of indigenous peoples. This strategy is an option for ancestral nations with long processes of resistance that challenge the sovereignty of States over their territories, and in the case of Lomerío, it turns into a demand for land and territory, that in 10 years achieves 86,4% of the 300 thousand hectares aspired in the beginning. Access to land and territory in Lomerío refers to a historical process of land restitution in the form of collective ownership or Community Lands of Origin (TCOs), combining the legal struggle with resistance and political pressure in processes that are expressed in a lot of collective marches from indigenous territories to the center of political power of the State, since at least 25 years.

## Credits

Lomerío Territory

Systematized by the Instituto para el Desarrollo Rural de Sudamérica - IPDRS

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