

# ANNEX 6

Brief note on Indigenous Peoples in Barbados

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**BLUE GREEN BANK**

A GREEN CLIMATE FUND INITIATIVE



# 1 Introduction

IBIS Consulting ('IBIS') is developing an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the Blue Green Bank (BGB) as part of the funding proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on behalf of the Government of Barbados. Amongst other E&S requirements, the GCF requires accredited entities to comply with its Indigenous Peoples Policy. Specifically, in case of GCF-financed activities, an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) need to be implemented. As such, the IPPF would need to be included in the ESMS for the BGB. However, IBIS proposes to not include an IPPF in the ESMS because of the absence of Indigenous Peoples in Barbados. This note provides some background, which is based on a review of publicly available information.

## 2 Indigenous peoples in Barbados

Historically, the earliest inhabitants of Barbados were indigenous groups who began arriving from South America (Venezuela's Orinoco Valley) around 350 CE. Among these were the Taino (Arawak) who set up several settlements on the island after 800 CE. They were later joined by Kalinago (Carib) migrants in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1536 and 1550, Spanish raiders regularly seized large numbers of indigenous Taino-Kalinago from Barbados to be used as slave labour on regional plantations. This prompted the Kalinago to flee the island for other Caribbean destinations (e.g., Dominica and St Vincent).

Eventually, the Arawaks of Barbados were either killed by the Caribs, who were cannibals and formed a threat to the Arawaks, or fled to neighbouring islands. The Caribs inhabited Barbados until the Spanish invaded in 1492. The Spanish captured the Caribs and transported them back to Spain to work as slaves.

The Spanish control of Barbados did not last long. Soon after occupying the island, the Spanish abandoned it to colonize other and larger islands in the region. After the Spanish left Barbados, the island remained uninhabited until the British arrived.

By the time the British occupied Barbados and settled there in 1627, there were no Taino or Kalinago peoples left in Barbados: "When first settled by English colonists in 1627, no indigenous peoples remained on the island, and settlers were confronted with a heavy forest" (Armstrong in DeCorse, 2019, p. 137).

As of today, according to various sources, close to 90% of the population of Barbados is of African descent. The remaining portion includes persons of mixed descent, Europeans, South Asians (Hindus and Muslims) and an influential group mainly of Syrian and Lebanese origin.

## 3 Conclusion

Based on IBIS' research and consultations with the Government of Barbados, there is no indigenous population left in Barbados. The subprojects that GCF will finance through BGB will, therefore, have no adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples. Thus, the IPPF as a tool to minimize or compensate for adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples is not needed.

# Sources

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