

Summary Report on the Presence of Indigenous People in St. Lucia

Prepared by: Lindis Norlund, Miguel Montoute, Jacinto Buenfil.

In accordance with FAO Environmental and Social Safeguards the FAO Project Formulation Team has undergone a consultation in local communities in St. Lucia to inquire about the presence of Indigenous Communities.

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Background

An initial literature review conducted in conjunction with the project formulation for the GCF Proposal FISH ADAPT indicated that there may be presence of indigenous people in Saint Lucia in the District of Choiseul. As this district falls under the selected project areas further confirmation was needed. The initial literature review mainly referred to the following source: Minority Rights Group Website, which indicated some presence of Kalinago's in the district of Choiseul. The website listed NRDF as the contact organization for the information. Outreach to NRDF indicated that the organization was unaware that they were listed as contacts on the Minority Rights Group website. They also could not confirm that NRDF was involved in Kalinago research. Further inquiry indicated that the NRDF is primarily a training organization and currently not very active in research-based initiatives. Outreach to Government partners also did not indicate any recognition or presence of indigenous communities in the country.

Given the lack of readily available information through literature and second-hand sources, a mission was undertaken to inquire about the presence of indigenous people in Choiseul.

The project conducted stakeholder consultations with Government (Department of Economic Development, Department of Fisheries), Academia (Sir Arthur Lewis Community College) and local communities (one wider consultation in Choiseul, and one focused consultation in La Pointe – which community and academic outreach had indicated as the most likely site for indigenous people or descendants of indigenous people). The mission

also sought to connect with ~~Mr. Albert Deterville, identified as~~ the chairperson of the Aldet Centre, an International Indigenous Peoples' NGO, which appears to be the only source suggesting the presence of indigenous communities in the country. Despite multiple attempts, the project team was unable to secure a meeting or verify ~~his-the chairperson's~~ representation of indigenous communities in the country.

Stakeholder consultations

Consultations conducted:

1. Government: Department of Economic Development and Department of Fisheries (Key project partners FISH ADAPT)

The government confirmed that St. Lucia does not recognize any indigenous people and that they also do not have knowledge of any indigenous people in the country.

2. Academia: ~~Dr. Marie-Louise Felix (One~~ Marine biologist and Fisheries specialist, National consultant FISH ADAPT, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College), Dr. ~~Winston Phulgence (One historical anthropologist with specialization in heritage management in the~~ St. Lucia Archeological and Historical Society ~~at,~~ Sir Arthur Lewis Community College), ~~Mr. Laurent Jean Pierre, and one~~ Ethnobotanist

The project team met with the key national consultant previously engaged in project design (~~Dr. Marie-Louise Felix~~) who shared information on previous consultations and connected with key stakeholders who would have knowledge on indigenous people. Following these recommendations the team met with a member of the St. Lucia Archaeological and Historical Society (~~Dr. Winston Phulgence~~) and a notable ethnobotanist working with local communities on biodiversity (~~Laurent Jean Pierre~~) who shared key information on historical ties and practices in the area of Choiseul. Each individual respondent confirmed that there is no active/current presence of indigenous communities in Saint Lucia at large, nor in Choiseul specifically. The stakeholders all identified Choiseul as the most dominant region in terms of practicing cultural activities tied to indigenous practices, while also confirming that the cultural practices are an amalgamation of Amerindians, Africans and Europeans.

3. Community: Choiseul (10 respondents), La Pointe (14 respondents)

The two community consultations were announced through key community members, town crier, flyers and through mass at the local church. The consultations included a presentation of the project and which activities would affect the Choiseul area as well as a number of survey questions regarding indigenous peoples presence in the area. The survey and discussions concluded the following:

- The District of Choiseul has presence of a number of people of indigenous descent, and most respondents identified themselves as being of Kalinago descent.
- Certain practices identified as/or believed to be indigenous are still prevalent in the area, such as basket weaving, pottery and dance.
- A majority of respondents (22 out of 24) indicated that there are no indigenous people or indigenous communities in the region.
- 2 out of 24 respondents identified themselves as indigenous, highlighting specifically their blood and ancestry, however they also clarified that they do not belong to an indigenous community (rather that they view themselves as indigenous at an individual level). These two respondents also confirmed that there are no indigenous communities in Choiseul.
- No respondents had objections to the project or the project activities.

Consultations Not Conducted

1. Aldet Center

The team was unable to retrieve any information from the organization, including whether/who they might represent. Furthermore, local stakeholders and community members either did not express familiarity with the Aldet Centre or perceived it as being primarily run by a single individual (Mr. Deterville). The project team inquired with government partners, academia and the local communities but was unable to find any stakeholder that could indicate which group the Aldet Center might represent.

Conclusion

Given the comprehensive literature review, community outreach and stakeholder engagement the FAO Formulation Team concludes that there are no active indigenous communities present in Saint Lucia.

Annexes.

Annex 1. Attendance sheets

Annex 2. Survey Responses: [SurveyResponses22.10_anonymous.pdf](#) and [Survey Responses 23.10.24_anonymous.pdf](#)



Annex 3. Outreach to the Aldet Center : RE_ FISH
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Annex 4. [Photos](#)