CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE

Building Resilience. Securing Our Future.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE

CCCCC Indigenous Peoples Policy

June 2026

-

Approval Authority:	Board of Governors	**Date of First Approval:**	June 2026
Version:	1	**Queries:**	Executive Director

3rd Floor, David L. McKoy Business Centre,
Bliss Parade, P.O. Box 563, Belmopan, Belize

info@caribbeanclimate.org

+(501) 822-1104/1094

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE

CCCCC Indigenous Peoples Policy

Building Resilience. Securing Our Future.

"...uphold the rights, governance and knowledge systems as well as development priorities of Indigenous Peoples in the Caribbean."

This Policy was adopted [date].

Indigenous Peoples Policy

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

Prepared for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre by Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico (AAE)

Table of Contents

Acronyms 5

1. Introduction and rationale 6

2. Objectives 6

3. Scope and applicability 7

4. Guiding principles and implications 9

4.1. Legal Recognition and Self-Identification 9

4.2. Land, territory and natural resource rights 10

4.3. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) 10

4.4. Full and Effective Participation 11

4.5. Cultural Identity, Governance, and Knowledge 11

4.6. Equitable Access to Benefits 11

4.7. Accountability, Monitoring, and Redress 12

References 13

Annexes: Guidance Documents 15

Annex A: Table - How are Indigenous Peoples recognized in the Caribbean? 15

Annex B: Checklist on adequate engagement of Indigenous Peoples along the project cycle 16

Annex C: Indicative FPIC process 19

Annex D: FPIC Normativity in Caribbean countries 22

Annex E: Operational and Implementation Arrangements 23

Annex F: Process of developing the Indigenous Peoples Policy 26

Acronyms

AAE	Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico
AF	Adaptation Fund
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System (CCCCC)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO 169	International Labour Organization Convention 169
IPP	Indigenous Peoples Plan
OAS	Organization of American States
PS	Performance Standard
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

1. Introduction and rationale

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) adopts this Indigenous Peoples Policy as a key institutional commitment to uphold the rights, governance and knowledge systems as well as development priorities of Indigenous Peoples in the Caribbean. The Policy recognizes Indigenous Peoples as essential partners in climate action, as stewards of biodiversity, and knowledge holders in sustainable land and water management, reflecting global and regional calls for stronger rights-based approaches that safeguard their collective and diverse identities, territories, institutions, and worldviews.

The Policy both informs and is informed by the CCCCC's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS, 2022), notably its Performance Standard 7 on Indigenous Peoples. It is grounded in a human right–based approach and draws upon widely accepted international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention N.169.[1]

The Policy remains attentive to the Caribbean region's socio-legal realities and jurisprudence. It establishes guiding principles and minimum safeguards that apply to all the CCCCC's programs, projects, partnerships, and internal practices, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples are not excluded or marginalized in project design and implementation, while respecting national laws and circumstances. Nothing in this Policy is intended to override the laws or policies of CARICOM member states. Its provisions operate as internal safeguards for CCCCC-supported activities, to be implemented in partnership with national authorities and in line with country circumstances.

This Policy was developed through a structured and participatory methodology. First, a comprehensive review of international human rights frameworks, regional jurisprudence, and the safeguard policies of climate finance institutions and development partners, including but not limited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), was conducted. This was complemented by an analysis of national constitutions, legislation, and case law across Caribbean states concerning the status and recognition of Indigenous Peoples. Building on the reviews, a series of targeted consultations were carried out with Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Peoples and other community organizations and national authorities with the aim to make the Policy both internationally legitimate and regionally relevant. (Further details on the policy development process are provided in Annex E).

The CCCCC will work in partnership with member and associate member States to implement this Policy, in a manner that adheres to national policies and laws.

2. Objectives

The overarching objective of this Policy is to ensure that, in all CCCCC-supported activities, the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples are duly respected, and that they

[1] The Inter-American human rights system has recognized its provisions as persuasive interpretive benchmarks for understanding Indigenous rights under the American Convention and American Declaration. See *Maya Indigenous Communities of the Toledo District v Belize*, Report No. 40/04, Case 12.053, Inter-Am. C.H.R., 12 October 2004, fn. 123; and IACHR, *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights Over Their Ancestral Lands and Natural Resources* (OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 56/09, 30 December 2009), para. 49.

are fully and effectively consulted, able to participate in decision-making processes; and share in equitable and culturally appropriate benefits arising from climate actions.

Within the scope of its operations, the Policy affirms Indigenous Peoples as rights-holders[2], and partners in building climate resilience. It commits the CCCCC, and all entities implementing its projects, to respect and safeguard these rights in practice, in line with international human rights and environmental standards, while implementing such safeguards in a manner consistent with the national laws and circumstances of CARICOM member states

Specifically the policy aims to:

a. Promote development processes that respect the priorities of Indigenous Peoples and support their effective participation;
b. Ensure the early identification of Indigenous Peoples in project areas and facilitate their full and effective participation across the project cycle;
c. Where activities may significantly affect their rights, territories, cultural heritage, or livelihoods, ensure that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is appropriately sought, and documented, consistent with applicable national frameworks and international best practice;
d. Integrate Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, institutions, and priorities into climate action, in ways that are culturally appropriate and agreed with the communities concerned;
e. Ensure the protection of Indigenous Peoples' intellectual property and traditional knowledge, and support their use only with the agreement of the communities concerned and under mutually agreed terms;
f. Promote equitable benefit-sharing and capacity development opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in the context of CCCCC-supported activities;
g. Establish accessible and culturally appropriate grievance and accountability mechanisms within CCCCC projects; and
h. Guide the CCCCC and its partners in applying consistent, intersectional, inclusive, and rights-based approaches to engagement with Indigenous Peoples, in alignment with human rights and with due regard to the laws and circumstances of member and associated states.

3. Scope and applicability

This Policy applies to all activities supported, financed, or implemented by the CCCCC and its partners where Indigenous Peoples are present, may be affected or where their rights, territories, resources, knowledge systems, or cultural heritage may be impacted. It guides the operations of the CCCCC undertaken within all member and associated member States, encompassing all forms of engagement, projects, programs, partnerships, and internal practices, regardless of funding source or scale. This Policy is an integral part of

[2] In Suriname afro-descendent tribal peoples are also considered rights-holders

the CCCCC's ESMS and complements Performance Standard 7 (PS7) on Indigenous Peoples, and the CCCCC's Gender Policy. It reinforces existing safeguards and reflects the CCCCC's commitment to inclusive and human rights-based engagement in its operations. In matters concerning Indigenous Peoples, where provisions in this Policy provide additional guidance beyond other CCCCC policies or guidelines, this Policy should inform the interpretation and application of safeguards within the scope of CCCCC-supported activities.

Identification of Indigenous Peoples

For the purposes of this Policy, the identification of Indigenous Peoples follows internationally accepted criteria, as reflected in the CCCCC ESMS. While there is no single universally agreed definition, Indigenous Peoples are generally described in international practice as distinct social and cultural groups who, as a collective, share some or all of the following characteristics[3]:

- self-identification as Indigenous at the individual and collective level, and recognition of that identity by others;
- a shared experience of colonisation or marginalisation;
- historical continuity within a given region prior to colonisation or annexation;
- collective entitlement and/or attachment to ancestral lands, territories and natural resources in their habitats and use thereof;
- an indigenous language, often different from the national or regional language;
- social, cultural, economic, or political institutions distinct from those of the dominant society; and
- distinct spiritual traditions, culture, beliefs, and knowledge systems.

CCCCC will use these criteria and relevant international standards as a guiding framework in the design and implementation of its projects, programs and engagements, while ensuring consistency with applicable national laws. This Policy also extends to groups identified by other terms (such as Tribal Peoples, First Peoples, Amerindian, Maroon communities or others), where such groups reflect some of the above characteristics in practice. In these cases, CCCCC-supported activities will engage respectfully with their governance systems and representative institutions, including through culturally appropriate participation processes and, where relevant, FPIC. This engagement does not imply or confer formal legal recognition, which remains solely within the prerogative of member or associated member States. However, it is informed by the rights of Indigenous Peoples as recognized under relevant international instruments and conventions.

Recognition of local communities in the Caribbean Context

The Policy maintains the distinction between Indigenous Peoples and other local communities for the purposes of safeguards and engagement practices and makes it clear that it does not confer formal legal recognition. Nonetheless, recognizing the cultural and historical diversity of the Caribbean, the CCCCC acknowledges the presence of local communities that may share characteristics commonly associated with Indigenous

[3] Based on ILO Convention 169 and the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples.

Peoples or other historically underserved traditional communities, but which may not be formally recognized under national law. In line with internationally accepted standards, this Policy provides guidance for engaging with such groups- including Tribal Peoples, Maroon, or Amerindian communities- whose cultural heritage, governance systems, and collective attachment to lands and resources contribute to climate resilience (See Annex A for an overview of how Indigenous Peoples are recognized across Caribbean states). This approach ensures that these communities are engaged respectfully and able to participate effectively in CCCCC-supported activities.

These definitions and criteria are informed by international legal standards, including UNDRIP, ILO Conventions 107 and 169, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the American Convention on Human Rights and relevant Inter-American System of Human Rights jurisprudence and decisions[4].

In applying this Policy, the CCCCC draws on these instruments and jurisprudence as guiding references for safeguards and engagement, while ensuring consistency with the national laws and circumstances of CARICOM member states. The Policy is implemented in line with the principle of applying the most appropriate and protective standard available to CCCCC-supported activities.

4. Guiding principles and implications

This section outlines the core principles that guide the CCCCC's engagement with Indigenous Peoples. These principles are rooted in international human rights, reinforced by regional jurisprudence, and aligned with good practice across multilateral institutions. Many of them are reflected in the constitutions and legal frameworks of member and associated member States, providing the basis for their integration in this Policy.

These principles are intended as operational guidance that shape the way the CCCCC designs, implements, and monitors its projects and programmes. They inform the procedural standards and good practices applied throughout the project cycle, ensuring that CCCCC-supported activities are inclusive, participatory and culturally appropriate, while being carried out in a manner consistent with national laws and circumstances.

4.1. Legal Recognition and Self-Identification

This principle guides the interpretation and implementation of the Policy by affirming that Indigenous Peoples have inherent rights to self-determination, self-governance, and to pursue development in accordance with their needs and aspirations. For the purpose of this policy, Indigenous Peoples are identified using internationally recognized criteria,

[4] See Case of the Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v Nicaragua (Merits, Reparations and Costs) IACtHR Series C No 79 (2001) (communal property rights and State obligations to delimit and demarcate); Case of the Kaliña and Lokono Peoples v Suriname (Merits, Reparations and Costs) IACtHR Series C No 309 (2015) (collective property and participation in conservation decisions); Maya Indigenous Communities of the Toledo District v Belize (IACHR Report No 40/04, Case 12.053, 2004) (recognition of communal land rights as part of the right to property); Case of the Saramaka People v Suriname (Merits, Reparations and Costs) IACtHR Series C No 172 (2007) (communal land, FPIC, and benefit-sharing from natural resource exploitation); Case of the Moiwana Community v Suriname (Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs) IACtHR Series C No 124 (2005) (collective rights, cultural identity, and reparations for displacement)

including self-identification, distinct social and cultural institutions, and collective attachment to territory, while respecting the fact that not all CARICOM member or associated member States formally recognize Indigenous Peoples in law. The lack of formal legal recognition does not invalidate Indigenous identity for the purpose of applying this Policy.

In engagements across the Caribbean, the CCCCC respects Indigenous Peoples' rights, customs and institutions, including the legitimacy of customary practices and legal pluralism. Where lack of statutory recognition or legal personality creates barriers in practice, this Policy functions as a safeguard for CCCCC-supported activities, applied in full adherence to member or associated member States' legal systems.

4.2. Land, territory and natural resource rights

This policy is to be interpreted and implemented in a manner that is consistent with international human rights standards and with the laws and circumstances of member or associated member States. In this context it recognizes that Indigenous Peoples may hold spiritual, cultural and collective relationships to territories, waters, and natural resources that they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used. Where such relationships exist, customary tenure systems are respected within CCCCC-supported activities, in coordination with relevant national authorities.

Any CCCCC-supported activity that may affect Indigenous Peoples' relationship with lands or resources will be designed and implemented in consultation with the affected communities and the competent national authorities, applying the principle of FPIC where relevant. Where applicable, mutually agreed measures will be promoted to prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts, and to promote fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

4.3. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

This policy is to be interpreted and applied in a manner that aligns with international human rights and the CCCCC's ESMS PS7. FPIC is understood as a safeguard process through which Indigenous Peoples are consulted in a culturally appropriate and good-faith manner before activities that may significantly affect their rights, lands, territories, resources, or cultures are undertaken. In CCCCC-supported activities, FPIC requirements will be applied in coordination with relevant national authorities and, where applicable, with implementing partners. Where established and accepted Indigenous FPIC protocols exist (e.g., see Annex D: FPIC Normativity in Caribbean Countries), these will guide the process. Where no such protocol exists, the approach will be defined jointly with the affected communities and national authorities in a manner consistent with international good practice (see Annex C for an indicative FPIC process).

FPIC is a continuous process that ultimately leads to an outcome. It is a process between project affected Indigenous Peoples and the project developer/team that will involve full information disclosure about activities that may affect them, consultation and dialogue, as well as negotiations over project outcomes during all stages of the project cycle. FPIC is also about Indigenous Peoples granting or withholding of consent on activities or components that may affect them. Where consent cannot be secured, the CCCCC will

work with national authorities, implementing partners, and affected communities to identify appropriate alternatives, mitigation measures or project adjustments, in line with international best practice and national legal frameworks.

4.4. Full and Effective Participation

This principle guides the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all phases of the project cycle for CCCCC-supported activities. Engagement will be timely, inclusive, and culturally appropriate, taking into account community protocols, community governance systems, cultural practices, and communication preferences, and involving traditional leadership. All segments of the community, women, men, youth, elders, and persons with disabilities, should have opportunities to contribute fully and effectively, with separate meetings arranged where appropriate to ensure their perspectives are heard.

Those undertaking engagement are expected to be qualified, culturally competent, and fully informed about the project context and purpose. Indigenous Peoples should receive clear, complete, accessible and culturally appropriate information in a language and format they understand, provided with sufficient time for reflection and response.

Participation under this Policy is understood as more than one-way consultation: it is a process of continuous engagement that allows Indigenous perspectives and knowledge to inform and shape project design and implementation. Practical tools to support this approach are included in Annex B (Checklist on adequate engagement of Indigenous Peoples along the project cycle).

4.5. Cultural Identity, Governance, and Knowledge

This principle guides CCCCC-supported activities to respect and support the cultural identities, governance systems, and knowledge traditions of Indigenous Peoples. Projects should recognize and, where appropriate, work through Indigenous traditional leadership and institutions in planning and decision-making. Indigenous languages and cultural expressions are to be respected and used where relevant, and the use of Indigenous traditional knowledge or cultural resources should occur only with the agreement of the communities concerned and with fair and culturally appropriate benefit-sharing.

Activities that could undermine Indigenous customs, social cohesion, or cultural integrity are to be avoided in CCCCC-supported activities. Where national or regional Indigenous representative bodies exist, engagement will be coordinated in a manner that aligns with and reinforces recognized governance structures, consistent with the applicable legal and institutional frameworks of member or associated member States.

4.6. Equitable Access to Benefits

This Policy is to be interpreted and applied so that Indigenous Peoples equitably share in the benefits of any CCCCC-supported initiative that involves or affects them. Where CCCCC-supported activities involve the use of Indigenous Peoples' lands, resources, or knowledge, benefit-sharing arrangements should be mutually agreed with the communities

concerned and implemented consistently with FPIC requirements and applicable national laws.

Such benefits, whether financial, technical, capacity-building, or socio-economic, should be defined and agreed with the concerned Indigenous communities through culturally appropriate processes.

Within the scope of its mandate and resources, the CCCCC will take appropriate measures to support community-identified priorities and to facilitate Indigenous Peoples' effective access to project benefits.

4.7. Accountability, Monitoring, and Redress

This principle guides the implementation of this Policy so that Indigenous Peoples engaged in CCCCC-supported activities can raise concerns, receive timely responses, and access remedies in a safe and respectful manner. All such activities should include grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) that are accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and developed in consultation with the affected communities.

Indigenous community members should be informed of and able to use both project-level and the CCCCC-level grievance mechanism[5], and safeguards will be applied to ensure that no one faces reprisals for raising concerns or providing feedback. Projects are also encouraged to promote participatory monitoring, enabling Indigenous Peoples' representatives to contribute to tracking project activities and impacts, where appropriate.

These measures function as institutional safeguards to ensure transparency, strengthen accountability, and support continuous learning and improvement in the implementation of this Policy, while being applied consistently with national legal and institutional frameworks.

[5] https://caribbeanclimate.org/complaints/

References

Adaptation Fund (AF) (2016) *Environmental and Social Policy*. Bonn: Adaptation Fund Board.

American Convention on Human Rights (1969) *Pact of San José, Costa Rica*. San José: Organization of American States.

American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man (1948) *Adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States*. Bogotá: Organization of American States.

American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016) *Adopted at the third plenary session, General Assembly of the Organization of American States*. Santo Domingo: OAS.

Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico (AAE) (2025) *Indigenous Peoples Policy for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)*. Belize: Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre.

Cal, A. et al. v. Attorney General of Belize (2007) *Supreme Court of Belize, Claim No. 171 of 2007*.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (1997) *Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community*. Georgetown: CARICOM Secretariat.

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) *Adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO*. Paris: UNESCO.

Convention on Biological Diversity (1993) *United Nations Treaty Series No. 30619*. New York: United Nations.

Escazú Agreement (2021) *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Santiago: ECLAC.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2016) *Free, Prior and Informed Consent: An Indigenous Peoples' Right and a Good Practice for Local Communities*. Rome: FAO.

Green Climate Fund (GCF) (2018) *Indigenous Peoples Policy*. Songdo: GCF Secretariat.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) (2019) *Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy*. Washington, D.C.: GEF.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1966) *United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 999*. New York: United Nations.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966) *United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 993*. New York: United Nations.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) (1969) *United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 660*. New York: United Nations.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) (2012) *Performance Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

International Labour Organization (ILO) (1957) *Convention No. 107 concerning the Protection and Integration of Indigenous and Other Tribal and Semi-Tribal Populations in Independent Countries*. Geneva: ILO.

International Labour Organization (ILO) (1989) *Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries*. Geneva: ILO.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2004) *Maya Indigenous Communities of the Toledo District v. Belize*. IACHR Report No. 40/04.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2005) *Moiwana Community v. Suriname*. Judgment of 15 June 2005.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2007) *Saramaka People v. Suriname*. Judgment of 28 November 2007.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2015) *Kaliña and Lokono Indigenous Peoples v. Suriname*. Judgment of 25 November 2015.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2024) *Akawaio Indigenous Community of Isseneru and its Members v. Guyana*. Judgment of 2024.

Maya Leaders Alliance and the Toledo Alcaldes Association v. Attorney General of Belize (2008) *Supreme Court of Belize, Claim No. 366 of 2008*.

Maya Leaders Alliance et al. v. Attorney General of Belize (2015) *Supreme Court of Belize, Claim No. 701 of 2014*.

M. Sabajo v. S. Sabajo (2022) *First District Court of Suriname, Decision of 24 November 2022*.

Organization of American States (OAS) (2007) *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*. New York: United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/295.

Paris Agreement (2016) *Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Paris: United Nations.

Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management and others v. Attorney General of Belize (2014) *Supreme Court of Belize, Claim No. 394 of 2013*.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2019) *Social and Environmental Standards (SES)*. New York: UNDP.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (2021) *Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Framework*. Nairobi: UNEP.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992) *United Nations Treaty Series No. 30822*. New York: United Nations.

Van Mendason et al. v. Attorney General of Guyana (2022) *High Court of Guyana, Civil Action No. 2018-HC-DEM-CIV-FDA-492*.

Wayana Consultation Protocol (2020) *Wayana Indigenous Peoples of Suriname*.

Maya of Southern Belize (2022) *Free, Prior and Informed Consent Protocol*. Punta Gorda: Maya Leaders Alliance.

Annexes: Guidance Documents

Annex A: Table - How are Indigenous Peoples recognized in the Caribbean?

The table outlines the various forms of recognition adopted in the Caribbean. "Political" recognition involves acknowledgment by government officials of indigenous or culturally distinct communities in their country, for example through some form of official engagement or the signing of Memoranda of Understanding. "Symbolic" recognition refers to the acknowledgment by the state of the contributions of indigenous peoples, usually cultural heritage. "Constitutional" recognition entails explicit provisions within the country's written constitution that affirm, in some form, the presence and rights of indigenous peoples. "Statutory" recognition refers to the formal acknowledgment and legal regulation of indigenous peoples' rights through ordinary laws or statutes. "Jurisprudential" recognition involves the recognition and protection of indigenous rights through court decisions and legal rulings.

Country	Type of recognition	Source
Antigua and Barbuda	None	Confirmed through revision of the legal framework
Bahamas	None	Confirmed through revision of the legal framework
Barbados	None	Confirmed through revision of the legal framework
Belize	Constitutional Jurisprudential Political	Preamble of the Constitution. Cal v AG; Maya Leaders Alliance et v Attorney General of Belize. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Belize and the National Garifuna Council.
Dominica	Statutory	Kalinago Territory Act
Grenada	None	None
Guyana	Constitutional Statutory Jurisprudential	Preamble of the Constitution; 212S of the Constitution; 212T of the Constitution Amerindian Act. 2006 Van Mendason et al. v. Attorney General of Guyana
Haiti	None	Confirmed through revision of the legal framework
Jamaica	Political	Maroon communities have met with Prime Ministers to discuss their "special" treaty rights[6]
Montserrat	None	Confirmed through revision of the legal framework
Saint Kitts and Nevis	None	Confirmed through revision of the legal framework
Saint Lucia	Political	Recognition of name as Bethechilokono
SVG	Symbolic	Recognition of Chief as national Hero and collaboration with organization that focuses on cultural heritage

[6] Cultural Survival, " Maroon Autonomy in Jamaica" https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/maroon-autonomy-jamaica

Suriname	Statutory Jurisprudential	Saramaka People v Suriname; Kaliña and Lokono Indigenous Peoples v Suriname; M. Sabajo v. S. Sabajo, First District Court, delivered on 24 November 2022, Moiwana community v Suriname. Decree L-1 of 1982; indigenous and Tribal Peoples Collective Rights Bill
Trinidad and Tobago	Political	In 1990, the Government recognized the Santa Rosa Community and agreed to grant them an annual subvention.[7]
Cayman Islands	Not Applicable	Not applicable

Note. Source: Authors

Annex B: Checklist on adequate engagement of Indigenous Peoples along the project cycle

Engagement of Indigenous Peoples takes place throughout the entire project cycle, from project initiation/design, through planning, execution, monitoring and until closure.. While FPIC is sometimes an essential part of the engagement process (see annex C for more details), full and effective engagement entails more and is not restricted to the projects or activities in which FPIC is needed. The practical steps below outline key actions for each phase of the project cycle. Some steps may occur simultaneously in practice. As the project initiation and planning phase provide the basis for success of the project, it can be expected that the engagement process during these phases is critical and may be more elaborate to provide a solid foundation for the rest of the project.

Project initiation/design

- Get to know the Indigenous Peoples community (better) before developing a project.
- Make contact with the community to make an appointment, either directly (respecting customary governance structures, e.g. traditional authorities) or with the help of a facilitating representative Indigenous Peoples organization, regarding topics to be discussed, a suitable date for an in-person meeting, a draft program, expected participants, logistics and other topics raised by the traditional authorities.
- Engage, as appropriate, the relevant national government department or agency that serves as a liaison with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure coordination with national authorities and alignment with country-specific institutional arrangements.
- Exchange information with the community/communities, ideally in-person, and possibly requiring more than one meeting moment. During the information exchange, discuss in more detail, e.g., the project idea, scope, goals, feasibility, timeline, costs, success criteria, exit strategy.

[7] Information Division of the Office of the Prime Minister, News Release 360. 1990. Review of the indigenous Caribbean, "Does Trinidad Recognize its Indigenous Peoples?" https://indigenousreview.blogspot.com/2007/03/does-trinidad-recognize-its-indigenous.html; https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/reviving-caribs-recognition-patronage-and-ceremonial#:~:text=The%20majority%20is%20either%20of,of%20the%20Santa%20Rosa%20Festival.

        - Use appropriate language(s) and/or a local interpreter when communicating with the community.
        - Use a communication format or combination of communication formats that is best understood by the community.
        - Ensure transparency and sharing of complete information regarding the project idea, pros and cons etc.
        - Be open and flexible to incorporate ideas from the community, transparently discuss what is and isn't feasible, and proposed alternatives.
        - Inform the community of its rights, including the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, if applicable.
    - Conduct a situation analysis incorporating perspectives and ideas of men, women, boys and girls.
    - Respect local decision-making processes and apply mutually agreed upon FPIC principles.
    - Incorporate a sustainable and empowering approach in the elaboration of the project idea and goals, ensuring that when community participants invest their time in the project, it is for something sustainable (aligned to local circumstances).
    - Where feasible, incorporate a long-term approach (e.g. consider financing educational grants for local people, or community development funds with appropriate accountability structures).

Project planning

- Check (at every project phase) that sufficient responsibility lies with the community (stimulating ownership), e.g. in this phase, in (co-)developing project interventions.
- Make clear agreements with involved communities about the division of responsibilities and ensure that everyone understands them in the same way.
- Inform the community of its rights in relation to the project being elaborated.
- Make clear agreements with involved communities regarding how all parties involved will engage and communicate with each other throughout the project life.
- Allocate sufficient financial and logistical resources to allow the community's participation activities in all phases of the project, keeping in mind that "presence" does not equate to participation.
    - Ensure that this enables effective participation of men, women, elders and youth.
- Incorporate the realization of one or several human rights in the formulation of project objectives or results.
- Develop interventions and activities that are appropriate with regard to the roles and responsibilities of men, women, elders and youth within communities.

- Integrate capacity building components into every project component or intervention.
- Use existing community customary structures and mechanisms as much as possible in the elaboration of project interventions or incorporate their strengthening as a project intervention (as opposed to creating new structures).
- Discuss with the community the potential positive and negative impacts of project interventions on men, women, older adults, and young people, and adjust as needed and mutually agreed upon.
- Build trust by keeping promises or avoid making them if implementation is uncertain.
- Be consistent in providing open, honest, and complete information while elaborating the project activities, results and so on.
- Agree upon a mutually acceptable process to resolve conflicts if they arise during the project execution.

Project execution

- Use appropriate language(s) and/or a local interpreter.
- Use a communication format or combination of communication formats that is best understood by the community.
- Ensure transparency and sharing of complete information.
- Consider repetition of information shared previously to allow the community to fully understand the project and activities at their own pace.
- Where direct community participation at a high level is not yet possible, allow an expert nominated by the community to represent them (e.g., in a multilingual, foreign, highly educated group).
- Support local decision-making processes and structures.
- Stay in contact with the community as much as possible and reconfirm FPIC at key stages of the project if activities or impacts change,
- Take appropriate (i.e., gender-responsive) measures to ensure appropriate communication with and effective participation of men and women, elders and youth.

Project monitoring

- Ensure transparency and sharing of complete information regarding progress of the project and achievement of results.
- Actively seek information and feedback from the community, e.g., through regular, pre-agreed upon meetings/communication moments and potentially through informal check-ins, e.g., via telephone. (see also sharing of project responsibilities with the community).
- Communicate and demonstrate how community feedback is incorporated and how issues raised are being addressed.

- Make time for substantive consultation and explanations when something isn't going according to plan, or when results do not meet the community's expectations.
- Incorporate gender- and age-sensitive monitoring indicators.

Project closure

- Execute a pre-agreed upon exit strategy, avoiding the community's (increased) dependence on donor funding, and including potential independent or supported (e.g. technical, coaching, intermediary support) follow-up.
- Where possible, ideally include financial and human resources for monitoring project impact at set intervals after project closure. This can be part of the sustainable approach (see project initiation).

Annex C: Indicative FPIC process

1. Understanding FPIC

Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is both a guiding principle and a process for meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples. As a principle, FPIC reflects Indigenous Peoples' right to make decisions regarding activities that may affect them, in accordance with their governance systems and decision-making processes.

As a process, FPIC involves providing information in a timely and culturally appropriate manner, allowing sufficient opportunity for communities to deliberate and decide whether to grant, withhold, or condition their consent. FPIC is not a one-time event but an ongoing process of dialogue and engagement throughout the project cycle.

FPIC processes supported by the CCCCC are guided by international good practice and relevant instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007), and the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (1989). These instruments are referenced as interpretive guidance, applied in a manner consistent with national laws and institutional frameworks across the Caribbean.

Key elements of FPIC

For FPIC to be genuine, the following conditions should be met:

Free: Consent should be given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, manipulation, or undue influence.

Prior: Information and consultation should occur sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities that may affect Indigenous Peoples, allowing adequate time for internal deliberation.

Informed: Information provided should be complete, comprehensible, and culturally appropriate, covering potential impacts, benefits, and risks, in the language and format best suited to the community.

Consent: The outcome of an FPIC process may result in consent, consent with conditions, or a decision not to consent. Consent is the product of collective deliberation through customary processes and is maintained through ongoing engagement over the life of the project.

2. FPIC and project/program design

In line with international good practice, Indigenous Peoples should be engaged as early as possible in the project or programme cycle. At early conceptual stages, when no specific sites or communities have yet been identified, a full FPIC process is generally not required. However, early dialogue with Indigenous or community representative organizations is encouraged to ensure that project design reflects Indigenous perspectives and to reduce potential conflicts.

Once specific communities are identified as potentially affected, FPIC should be sought in accordance with this Policy, relevant national laws, and, where available, established community protocols. Where national or community FPIC procedures exist, these should guide implementation.

3. FPIC Roadmap during project implementation:

The steps below outline an *indicative process* for conducting FPIC in CCCCC-supported activities. This roadmap serves as internal guidance for implementers and affected communities and is to be adapted in collaboration with national authorities and Indigenous organizations, in line with country-specific legal frameworks and community protocols.

Step 1: Identify and become informed about the affected communities

i. Identify potentially affected Indigenous communities, their governance systems, and decision-making processes.

ii. Establish initial communication channels with representative organizations, respecting traditional protocols.

Step 2. Preliminary community session and consent to be consulted

i. The goal of the preliminary session is to:

   a. Present thorough information about the initiative including preliminary risk assessments.

   b. Present information about the proponent and the authorized representatives in the consultation process, and grievance mechanisms.

   c. Inform the community about the principles and process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, consistent with this Policy and applicable national laws.

   d. Request the community's consent to a consultation process.

   e. If the community consents to a consultation process the preliminary meeting will establish a mechanism for developing a consultation plan, including the authorized parties and mechanisms for developing and approving the consultation plan and communication mechanisms. The authorized party for developing the plan will typically include community representatives, their supporting organizations and representatives of the proponent.

ii. The preliminary session should include:

   a. Presentation on the right to FPIC.

b. Presentation on the proposed initiative, preliminary risk assessments, source of funding.

c. Presentation on the proponent, its mandate, experience, authorized agents and grievance mechanism.

d. Information sharing should be guided by the principles of transparency and full disclosure.

e. The session should provide an opportunity for question and answers and community deliberation and decision-making.

Step 3. Developing and approving of the Consultation Plan

i. Develop the consultation plan

ii. The goal of this step is to develop a Consultation Plan that will guide the consultation process. The plan should include, as appropriate:

a. Calendar of sessions, participants and venue.

b. Mechanisms for involvement of sectors of the community such as women, youth and elders.

c. Translation and facilitation requirements.

d. Identification of and plans for necessary environmental, socio-cultural and economic impact assessments, plans for community involvement in the conduct of assessments and plans for socializing the results.

e. Community protocols and mechanisms for deliberation and decision-making that will be followed and the role of the proponent

f. Plans and mechanisms for the documentation of the process.

g. Plans for developing and approving the consent agreement (if consent is granted) Indigenous Peoples plan and where necessary benefit sharing agreement.

h. Plans for developing a failure-to-obtain-consent report if consent is not granted.

i. Indigenous Peoples Plan (the way the project will be implemented); and a signed consent agreement (if consent is granted or a no-consent report).

j. Consultation monitoring mechanism – how will the consultation be monitored and adjustments made.

k. Agreed role of the proponent in the consultation process.

l. An indicative budget for carrying out the consultation plan, roles and responsibilities of the parties involved.

iii. Follow the agreed process for approving the consultation plan.

Step 4. Implementation of the Consultation Plan

i. Implement the consultation plan as agreed upon.

ii. Ensure transparency and adapt the process where adjustments are requested by the community.

Step 5: Community decision making

i. Upon the completion of the consultation plan, allow the necessary space for community deliberation and decision-making in accordance with their customary decision-making process.

ii. Recognize that outcomes may be consent, consent with conditions, or non-consent.

Step 6. Documentation of Outcomes

i. Where consent is granted, prepare a consent agreement, Indigenous Peoples Plan, and, where applicable, a benefit-sharing arrangement.

ii. Where consent is not granted, prepare a report documenting the process and outcome, to inform next steps.

Documentation should follow formats agreed with the community and consistent with the applicable national and institutional frameworks.
Step 7. Signing of agreements

i. Agree with the community on the process for signing of the consent agreement.

ii. Ensure that agreements are implemented, monitored, and updated as needed.

Step 8: Consultation report and lessons learnt

While not a formal step in the FPIC process, it is recommended that implementing entities prepare a short report summarizing the FPIC process and lessons learned. These insights can inform continuous learning and improvement of CCCCC's practices.

This indicative FPIC process is intended as internal operational guidance for CCCCC-supported activities. It does not supersede or substitute national laws or established community procedures and should be applied in collaboration with competent national authorities and Indigenous organizations.

Annex D: FPIC Normativity in Caribbean countries

This Annex provides an overview of existing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) norms, protocols, draft frameworks, and court rulings across Caribbean countries. Its purpose is to serve as a reference point for implementers and policy drafters, indicating jurisdictions where FPIC standards are already formalized, legally or by communities, and where gaps or evolving instruments exist.

FPIC Protocols

- Maya of Southern Belize, Free, Prior and Informed Consent Protocol (Belize, 2022): A community-developed FPIC framework grounded in customary decision-making processes, designed post-Maya land rights ruling.
- Wayana Consultation Protocol (Suriname, 2020): Protection of the rights of the Wayana's in the field of self-determination, participation and decision-making.

FPIC related laws or protocols in draft

- Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Collective Rights Bill (Suriname): Legislative effort to formalize FPIC and collective rights, currently under development.
- FPIC Guidelines being developed by the National Toshaos Council (Guyana): This initiative represents a significant effort by the national representative body for Indigenous Peoples to create a standardized, community-owned framework for implementing FPIC across all sectors and projects affecting their territories.

National FPIC-related Court Rulings

- **Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management and others v Attorney General of Belize, 2014:** The case challenged the Government of Belize's decision to grant permits for road construction and commercial oil drilling within the Sarstoon Temash National Park without obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of the indigenous Maya communities living in and around the park.
- **Air Services Transport v Guyana, 2021**. (on the general duty to consult); The case involved commercial air transport service providers challenging the Minister of Public Infrastructure's decision to rename Ogle International Airport as the Eugene F Correia International Airport without adequately consulting those affected by the decision.
- **Van Mendason et al. v. Attorney General of Guyana, 2022**: The case "Van Mendason et al. v. Attorney General of Guyana, 2022" was a landmark legal decision concerning the land rights of the Akawaio and Arekuna Amerindian communities in the Upper Mazaruni District of Guyana. The plaintiffs, represented by Van Mendason on behalf of these indigenous communities, sought legal recognition and protection of their collective land rights over their traditional territory.

Annex E: Operational and Implementation Arrangements

The following operational requirements guide how the above principles are to be put into practice. They are aligned with the CCCCC's ESMS and clarify responsibilities, processes, and resources to effectively implement this Policy within the scope of CCCCC-supported activities.

1. Information disclosure and communication

The CCCCC and its partners will make every effort to ensure that project information is communicated to Indigenous Peoples in a transparent and culturally appropriate way at all stages of the project cycle. Where appropriate channels or methods are not already known, they should be identified through early engagement with Indigenous Peoples' representative organizations. Key considerations include:

- **Timely and accessible disclosure:** Relevant project information (including potential risks and benefits) should be shared with affected Indigenous communities early and throughout the project cycle in a form that is understandable and accessible.
- **Culturally and linguistically appropriate formats**: Communication methods should be adapted to Indigenous Peoples' languages and preferences. This may

include local languages, plain language summaries, oral presentations, visual aids, radio broadcasts, or other non-written formats as needed to reach all community members.

- **Disclosure strategies**: Plans for information disclosure and ongoing communication should be developed together with the Indigenous communities to foster trust and ensure the information reaches them effectively.
- **Respect for traditional channels:** Where Indigenous communities have established ways of sharing information (e.g. through village councils, elders, or community meetings), the CCCCC will respect and incorporate these practices into the communication strategy, in line with national circumstances and applicable law.

2. Accountability and grievance redress

The CCCCC is committed to providing effective channels for Indigenous Peoples in CCCCC-supported activities to voice concerns and seek remedies. To achieve this:

- **Institutional Grievance Mechanism:** The CCCCC maintains a centralized institutional GRM to address concerns related to its operations, policies, and safeguards. This GRM serves as a channel for institutional accountability and should be accessible to all affected stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples. The GRM will be publicized to Indigenous communities as a part of engagement processes, in culturally appropriate formats.
- **Project-Level Grievance Mechanisms:** Projects involving Indigenous Peoples are expected to establish a project-level grievance redress mechanism as part of their Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), in consultation with the communities concerned. These mechanisms should:
    - Be culturally and linguistically appropriate;
    - Be explained clearly and disclosed in accessible ways;
    - Allow unresolved concerns to be referred to the institutional GRM if needed.
- **Support and oversight:** The CCCCC will support and oversee implementing partners in designing and operating grievance mechanisms that are adapted to local contexts. This will help ensure that Indigenous peoples understand how to raise concerns and seek redress. The CCCCC will also promote timely and transparent resolution of grievances, track outcomes, and incorporate . lessons learned into the ESMS and institutional practices. Safeguards should be in place to prevent retaliation against individuals or communities raising grievances.

3. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

The CCCCC will monitor the implementation of this Policy within its operations and use findings to strengthen outcomes over time, in line with its ESMS and institutional mandate.

- **Inclusive indicators:** Projects involving Indigenous Peoples should define monitoring indicators that reflect Indigenous Peoples' engagement, the protection of their rights, and equitable access to project benefits. These indicators are to be developed in consultation with the Indigenous communities concerned and integrated into project monitoring and evaluation plans, as appropriate.

- **Disaggregated data and community feedback:** Monitoring and evaluation systems should collect disaggregated data by relevant segments (e.g. by gender, age, or subgroup) and to incorporate community feedback. Wherever feasible, Indigenous representatives may participate in data collection or validation processes, ensuring results reflect on-the-ground realities.
- **Continuous learning:** Lessons drawn from monitoring, community feedback, and grievance processes will be used by CCCCC to update its procedures, staff training, and guidance. Insights from Indigenous Peoples Plans and FPIC processes will also inform periodic updates of this Policy and the ESMS, as appropriate.
- **Periodic review:** The CCCCC will conduct periodic reviews of the overall effectiveness of this Policy. These reviews will seek input from Indigenous Peoples or their representative organizations and will be used to strengthen the Policy and address any gaps or challenges identified during its application.

4. Roles, responsibilities and resources

The CCCCC will assign an Indigenous Peoples Focal Point within its structure, with responsibility for internal coordination, technical advice, oversight and reporting on the implementation of this Policy. The CCCCC will seek to ensure that adequate resources are made available to support the effective implementation of this Policy, including through project budgets, core allocations, and partnerships, as appropriate and within its institutional mandate.

- **Implementing Entities (Project Proponents/Partners):**

Implementing entities are expected to apply this Policy in the design and execution of projects involving Indigenous Peoples. Within their mandates and capacities, they are responsible for:

  - Screening projects early to identify the presence of Indigenous Peoples and potential impacts on their rights, territories, resources, knowledge systems, or cultural heritage;
  - Conducting risk and impact assessments that address Indigenous Peoples' considerations, where relevant;
  - Preparing and implementing Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) when determined necessary;
  - Managing engagement and FPIC processes where applicable under this Policy and consistent with national laws;
  - Ensuring inclusive and effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples throughout the project cycle and delivering agreed benefits, where appropriate;
  - Reporting on IPP implementation and results, in line with CCCCC guidance;
  - Maintaining complete records of screening, assessments, engagement activities, FPIC processes, and benefit-sharing arrangements, to be made available to the CCCCC upon request.

The CCCCC will assess implementing partners' capacities to fulfill these responsibilities during project appraisal and, where gaps are identified, may support capacity-building

measures or provide liaison support. Where relevant, project budgets should make provision for these measures, particularly in relation to engagement and FPIC processes.

5. Capacity building and partnerships

Building long-term partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and strengthening institutional capacity are fundamental to the successful implementation of this Policy. Within its mandate, the CCCCC will seek:

- **Staff and partner training:** Provide training opportunities to CCCCC staff and, where relevant, implementing partners staff on Indigenous Peoples' rights, cultural competencies, FPIC processes, participatory planning, community engagement and safeguard requirements. These efforts are intended to strengthen understanding of the Policy and support respectful and effective engagement with Indigenous communities.
- **Capacity building activities:** Support joint capacity-building initiatives for and with Indigenous Peoples. Wherever possible, the CCCCC will co-design training or workshops with Indigenous organizations to share knowledge in both directions-for example, building community capacity to engage in climate projects, and simultaneously enhancing the CCCCC's understanding of Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- **Participatory methods:** Encourage participatory and inclusive methodologies in project planning and design. Where relevant, indigenous knowledge and perspectives will be integrated into project planning tools (such as vulnerability assessments or adaptation plans) through the involvement of community members so that traditional knowledge systems inform scientific and technical approaches to climate resilience.
- **Engagement of Indigenous Organizations:** Where feasible, work with Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions and organisations as partners or co-implementers in CCCCC-supported projects. This may include roles such as advising on project design, providing technical input (e.g. in ecosystem management or traditional agriculture practices), or facilitating project activities under appropriate arrangements. These partnerships are expected to foster dialogue, trust, and more effective project delivery.

Annex F: Process of developing the Indigenous Peoples Policy

The development of the Indigenous Peoples Policy for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) followed a structured, participatory, and regionally grounded methodology. The development process began with a comprehensive review of relevant international human rights frameworks, regional jurisprudence, and institutional safeguard policies. This included analysis of instruments such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ILO Conventions 107 and 169, and standards from organizations such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund (AF), Conservation International, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), among others. Particular attention was given to how these

frameworks define and engage Indigenous Peoples, as well as their relevance in the Caribbean's legal and cultural landscape.

In parallel, national legislation, constitutional provisions, case law, and policy frameworks from across the Caribbean were systematically reviewed. This desk-based research mapped the extent to which Indigenous and Tribal Peoples are recognized in domestic legal systems, identified gaps and inconsistencies, and synthesized region-specific challenges related to identity, land tenure, consultation, and access to remedy.

This body of research served as the foundation for structuring the thematic pillars of the policy, such as legal recognition, FPIC, land and resource rights, governance, benefit-sharing, and grievance mechanisms, ensuring that the policy aligned with the most current and applicable standards and practices.

Building on this research, targeted stakeholder consultations were carried out across Caribbean countries to validate and enrich the policy framework. These engagements included Indigenous Peoples' organizations and leaders, national institutions responsible for Indigenous affairs, and other civil society organizations. Consultations took the form of in-person and virtual meetings, structured dialogues, and written feedback, depending on the context and availability of participants.

Participants were invited to share their perspectives on the policy's relevance, proposed structure, and areas of priority. Topics covered included community-preferred terminology, the application of FPIC, recognition of customary governance systems, and pathways for securing land and resource rights. The engagement process was guided by principles of informed consent, transparency, and mutual respect, and all participants were provided with context materials to support meaningful participation.

Findings from these engagements were systematically analysed and used to refine the policy. Input from stakeholders helped clarify key procedural elements, identify preferred language and concepts, and ensure that regional diversity, particularly with respect to governance models and legal status, was adequately reflected in the policy.

The draft final policy was circulated to all consulted stakeholder for their final feedback and validation. This process resulted in additional refinement to the policy prior to its finalisation.

Structuring the Policy

The final policy was organized into clear thematic chapters and annexes, balancing legal rigor with practical guidance for implementation. Guiding principles such as respect for self-determination, cultural integrity, gender equity, and accountability are embedded throughout, providing a normative backbone for the policy's operational requirements.

Particular care was taken to ensure that the policy applies to groups that may not be formally recognized by national governments, but who meet international criteria for Indigenous or Tribal Peoples. Similarly, the policy incorporates flexibility to respect existing community-led FPIC protocols where they exist, while providing an indicative FPIC process to guide projects in contexts where no such protocol is in place.

The inclusion of regional jurisprudence, such as rulings from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, further strengthens the legal basis for the policy and ensures its alignment with minimum international standards, even in countries where domestic legislation remains limited.

Throughout its development, the policy process emphasized the unique cultural, legal, and ecological contexts of the Caribbean. Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach, the methodology recognized the need for flexibility, cultural sensitivity, and practical tools to guide implementation.

The combination of legal analysis, institutional benchmarking, and grounded stakeholder input helped ensure that the Indigenous Peoples Policy is not only normatively robust, but also regionally legitimate and operationally applicable. By integrating these elements, the CCCCC is better positioned to uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights while advancing inclusive and sustainable climate action across the Caribbean.