

# Human Rights-based Approach to CDM: Case Study of Barro Blanco

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# Safeguards – what is needed to protect the rights of project-affected peoples and communities

- Elements of an institutional safeguard system
  - International safeguard policies (“do no harm”)
  - Monitoring system to ensure that safeguards are effectively implemented throughout the project cycle
  - Grievance process to ensure that those affected can raise their concerns and have them addressed in a timely manner
  - Opportunities for meaningful and effective participation in all stages of decision-making processes

# Barro Blanco – Background

- Barro Blanco project is a 28.84 MW hydro dam on the Tabasará River in the Province of Chiriquí in western Panama, adjacent to the Ngöbe-Buglé comarca
- Flooding will directly affect the Ngöbe communities of Quebrada Caña, Kiad, and Nuevo Palomar
- Approximately 300 people based on community estimates will be displaced
- No one in these communities was consulted prior to the decision to approve the project

# Barro Blanco – Legal actions

- 2011: Environmental Advocacy Center of Panama (CIAM) filed a lawsuit on behalf of members of the Ngöbe communities, challenging ANAM's approval of the environmental impact assessment
- 2013: CIAM filed a lawsuit on behalf of Manolo Miranda, challenging ASEP's decision authorizing the taking of his family's land for construction of BB
- 2014: Members of the Ngöbe communities filed a complaint with the German and Dutch national development banks (DEG and FMO)
- 2014-present: Correspondence with Special Rapporteurs James Anaya, John Knox and Vicky Tauli-Corpuz

# Barro Blanco – Situation on the ground

