

THE ADVENTURES OF NAGO AND MIRI

THE JEWEL OF THE KALINAGO



Written by Gregory Rabess



India-UN Development
Partnership Fund
Commonwealth window



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation





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ILLUSTRATED & DESIGNED BY JENAE BELL

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LAYOUT BY PETREA HONYCHURCH SEAMAN

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Jewel of the Kalinago is a comic book for young children and students. The story is anchored on Kalinago folk beliefs, myths, legends and cultural traditions and set in present day Kalinago Territory.

Nago, a Kalinago boy and Miri, a Kalinago girl, both approximately twelve (12) years old, have a chance encounter with the spirit of Maruka who directs them to carry out a series of tasks/actions in order to receive a precious jewel representing Kalinago strength and wisdom. The story unfolds by revealing how they go about accomplishing the various tasks. Current issues such as environment degradation and depletion of resources will sometimes manifest themselves and pose challenges while carrying out the set tasks. These tasks are essentially preparation for a visit to the giant boa snake which lives in a cave in the mountains of Madjini in the Kalinago Territory. On the appointed day, with the moon at last quarter, Nago and Miri visit the snake, give it an offering, perform a ritual dance and make a wish for strength and wisdom. The snake in return grants them their wish by gifting each of them a jewel of strength and wisdom. The spirit of Maruka then reappears, congratulates Nago and Miri and sets them off on a new mission.

The story as a whole portrays a rite of passage from child to adulthood, in essence, the key things that every Kalinago child should learn, know and do in relation to Kalinago heritage and traditions in order to become an adult, a brave and confident Kalinago warrior worthy of the ancestors.

This book is one of two publications produced as part of the booklet project implemented under the Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods Project (SSLR) undertaken in the Kalinago Territory by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Kalinago Council and the Government of Dominica through the Ministry of the Environment, Rural Modernization and Kalinago Upliftment during 2021 and 2022. The booklet project is linked to Project Objective 4 of the SSLR programme i.e. Institutional Strengthening - boost institutional capacities of the Kalinago Council for improved participative and inclusive decision-making and planning. The booklet project is aimed at retelling the Kalinago narrative and raising awareness of Kalinago history and culture and Kalinago contribution to Dominica's development and progress.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

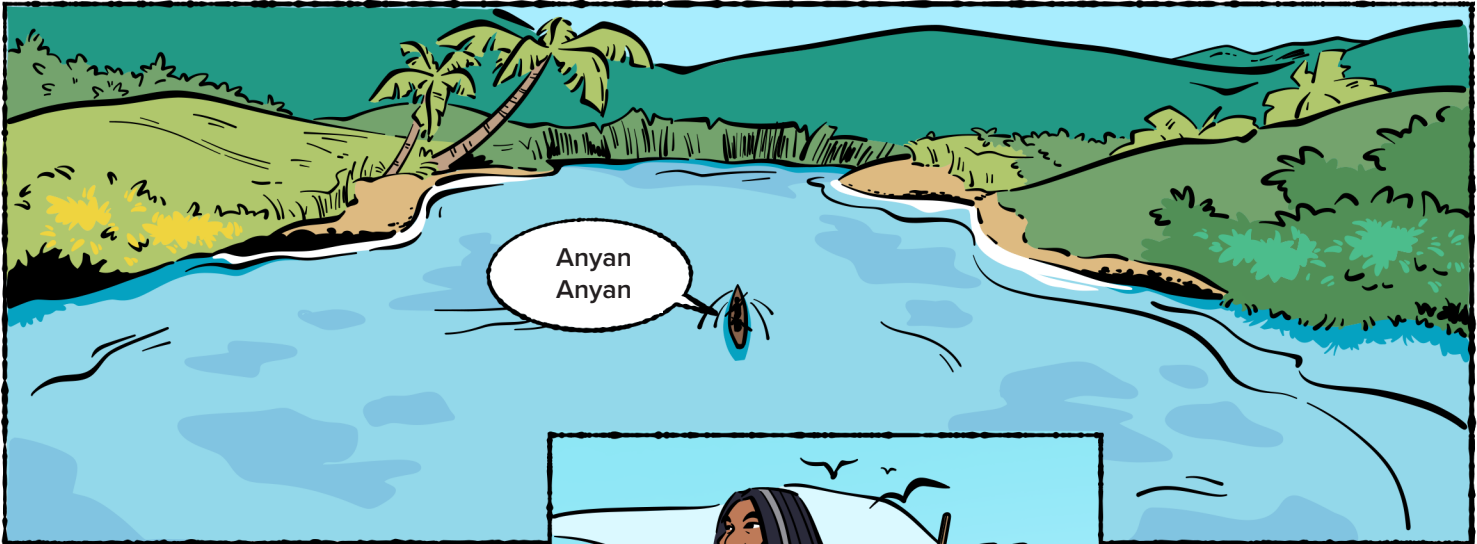
The UNDP expresses its gratitude to the Government of India through the India-UN Partnership Fund, Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and Honourable Cozier Frederick MP and Minister for Environment, Rural Modernization and Kalinago Upliftment. Thanks to Kalinago Chief Lorenzo Sanford and the Kalinago Council.

Thanks also to the Ministry of Education of the Government of Dominica - Merritta Hyacinth, Senior Programmes Officer, Robert Guiste, Head of Curriculum and Measurement Unit and Veda George, Early Childhood Coordinator.

Thanks to the Kalinago elders and tradition bearers both past and present for passing on Kalinago stories, myths, traditions and knowledge to successive generations.

Thanks to Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation and Kalinago Upliftment – Ms Mandra Fagan, Kalinago Development Officer - Donalson Frederick. Thanks to former Kalinago Chiefs - Garnette Joseph, Irvine Auguiste, Faustulus Frederick, Charles Williams and MasClem Frederick; Principals of the Atkinson, Concord, Salybia and Sineku Primary Schools; Kalinago Cultural Officer, Prosper Paris; Kalinago Webinar Panelists: Shaman Gerald ‘Mabrika’ Langlais, Senator Anette Sanford, Claudius Sanford, Louis Patrick Hill, Willa Cyrille, Natasha Green, Devon Cuffy, Miranda Langlais, Gweneth Frederick, Jumadine Frederick, Alexia Burton, Ferdison Valmond, Jason Jones; Coralie Paris, Arlington James, Agronomist, Marcus Phillip, Boatbuilder, Napoleon Sanford, former school Principal, Alice LaRonde, Historian, Dr Lennox Honychurch, Storyteller, David Marcellin (deceased), manager and the staff of the Kalinago Barana Aute.

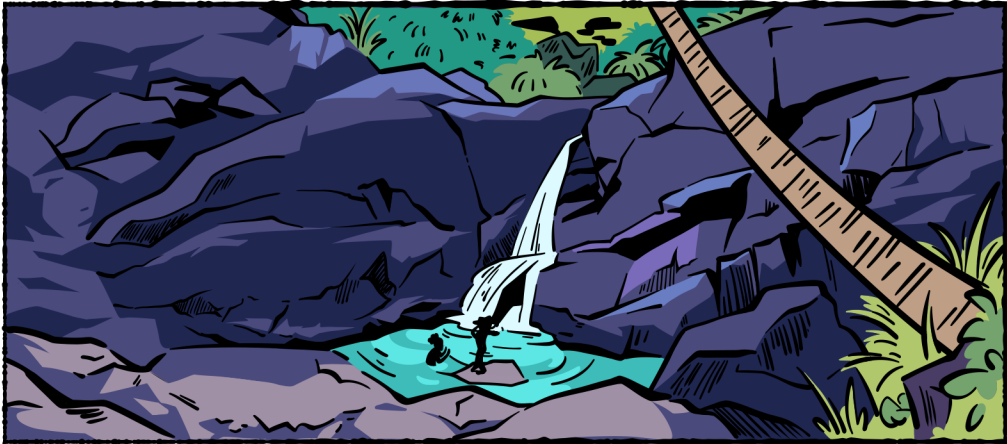
500CE: Two brothers Maruka and Simanari lived in Waitukubuli. They would often visit a cave in the mountains of Madjini where the Great Boa lived. They would burn tobacco on a paddle as an offering. The Great Boa in return would grant them whatever they wished. When they became old men they returned to the Orinoco.

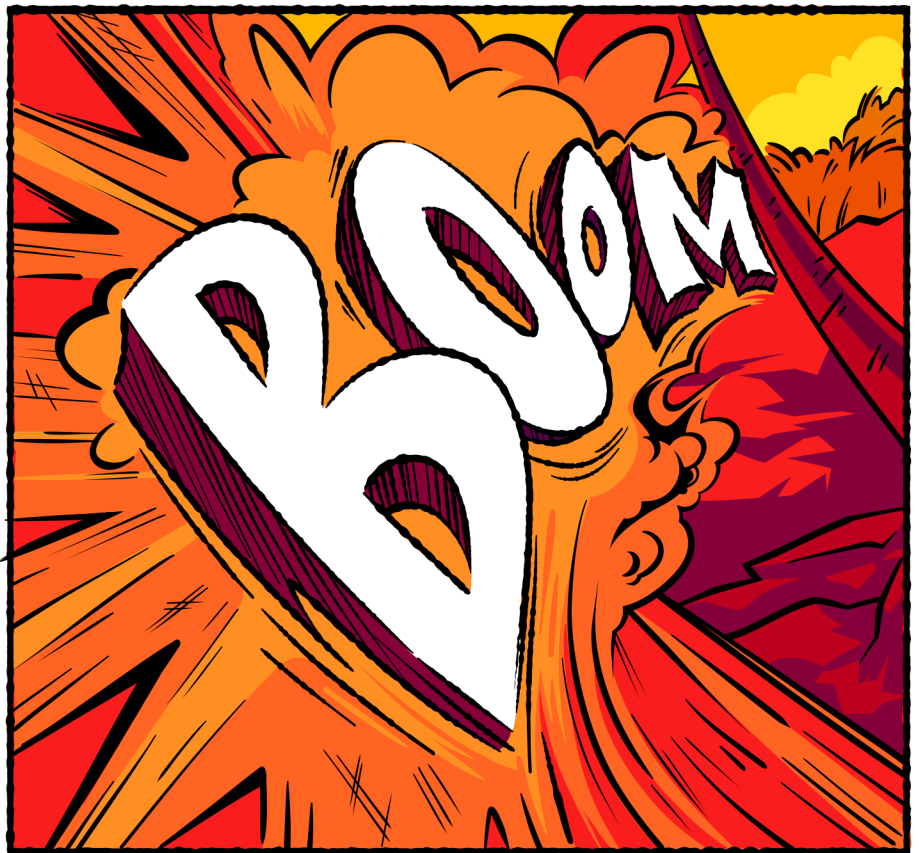
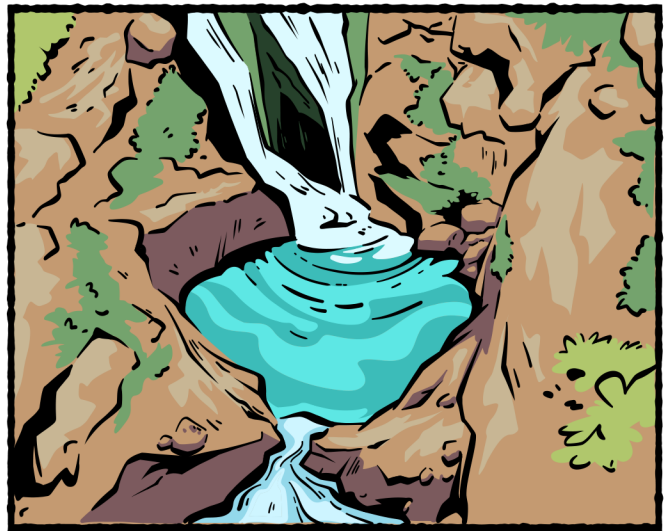


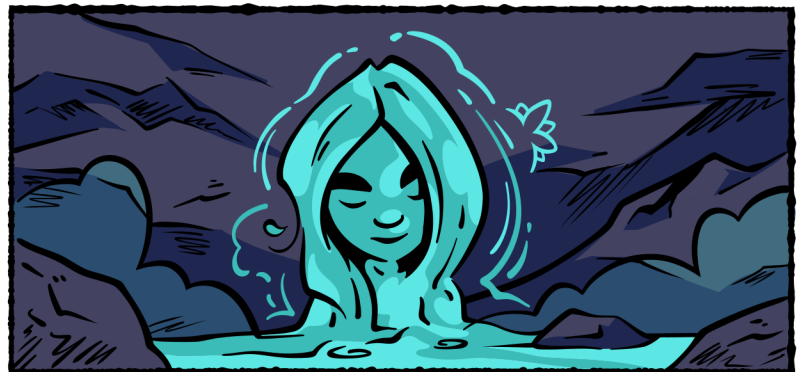
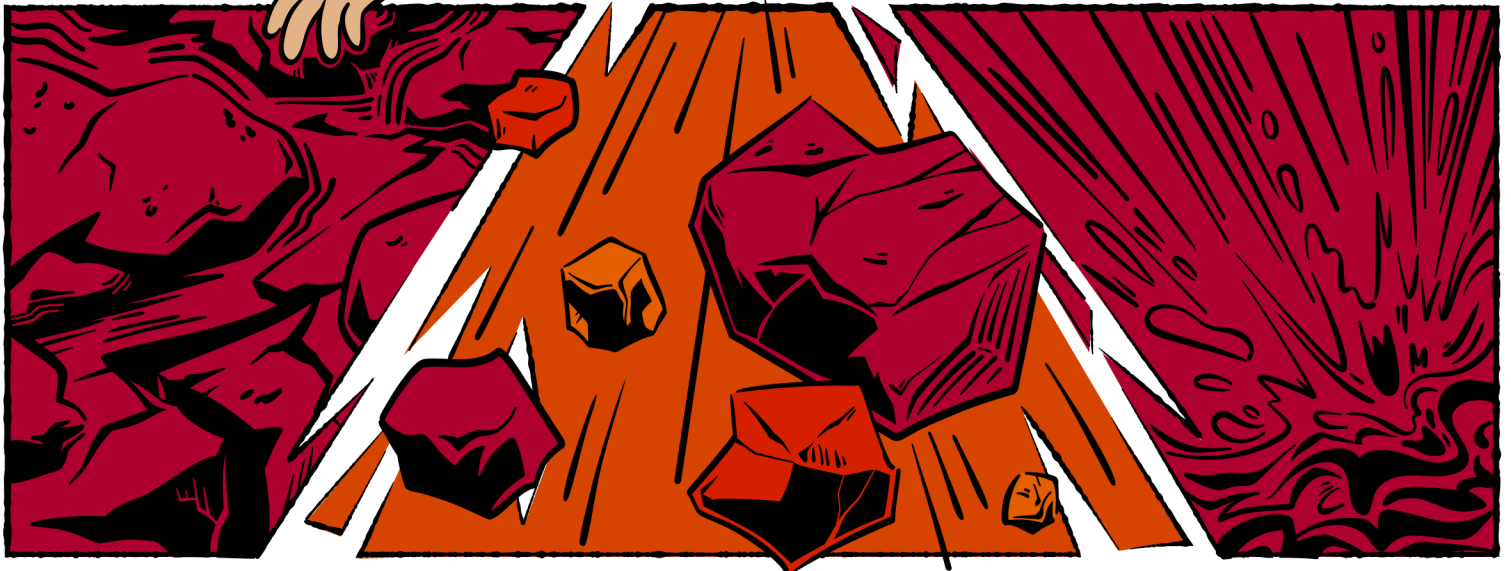
On arrival there, they dived into a river and when they surfaced they became young boys once again.

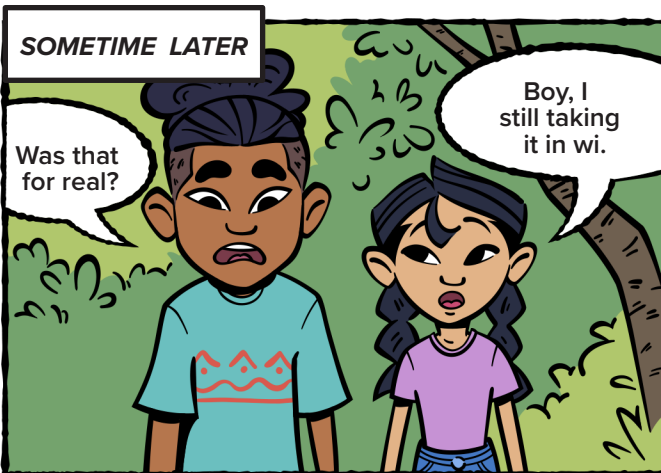
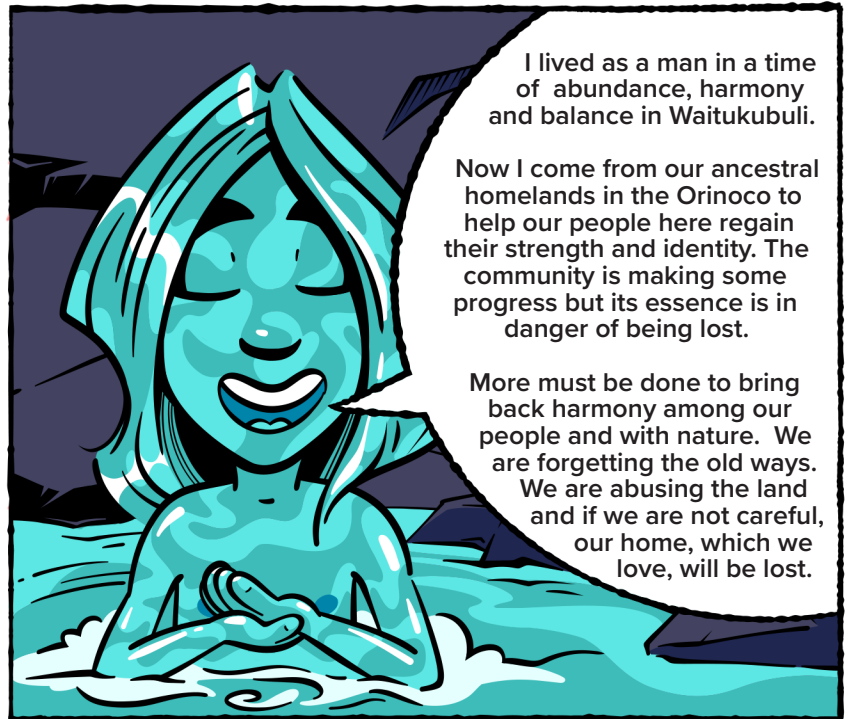


KALINAGO TERRITORY. PRESENT DAY



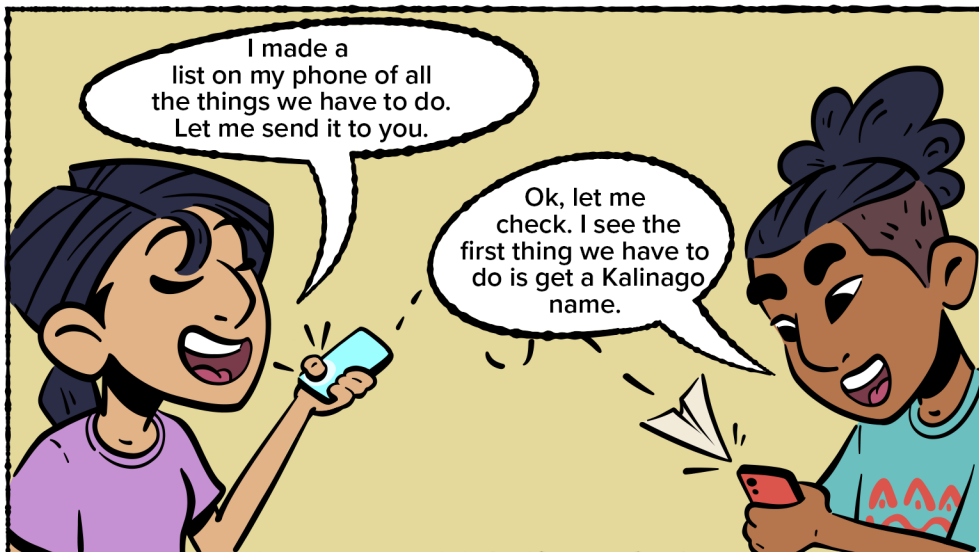






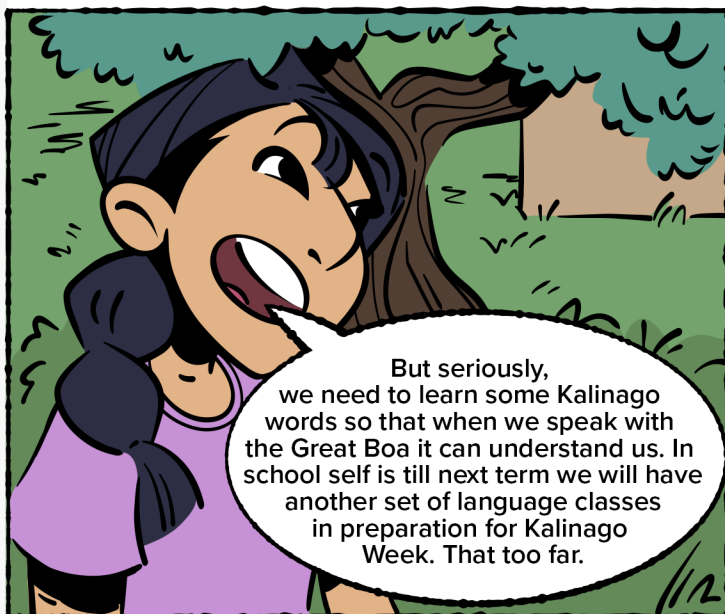


THE FOLLOWING DAY



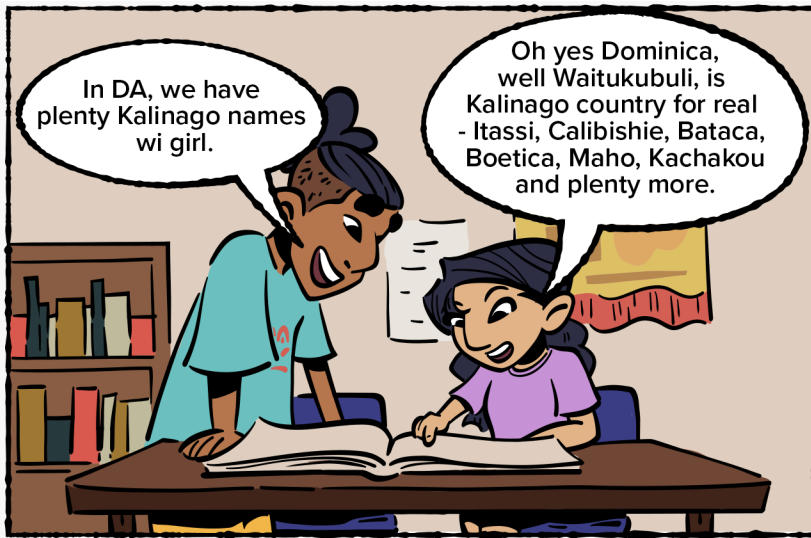


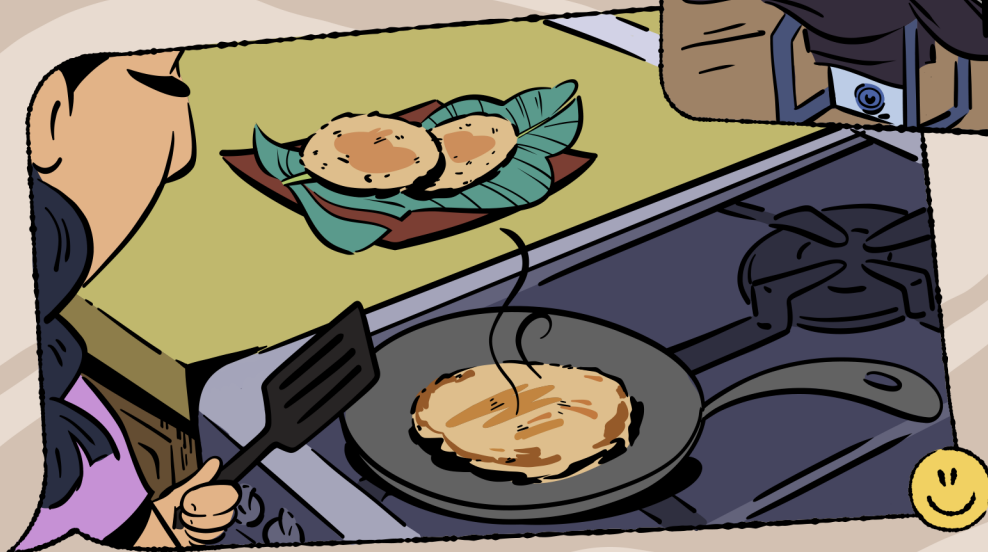
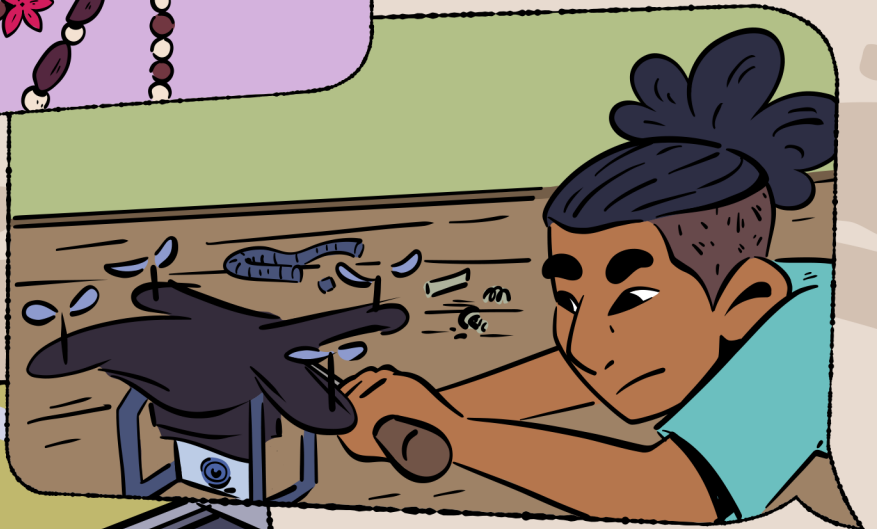
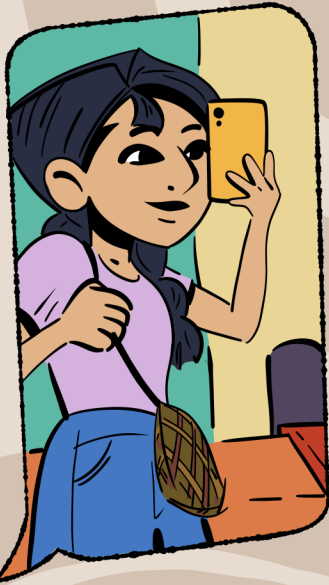
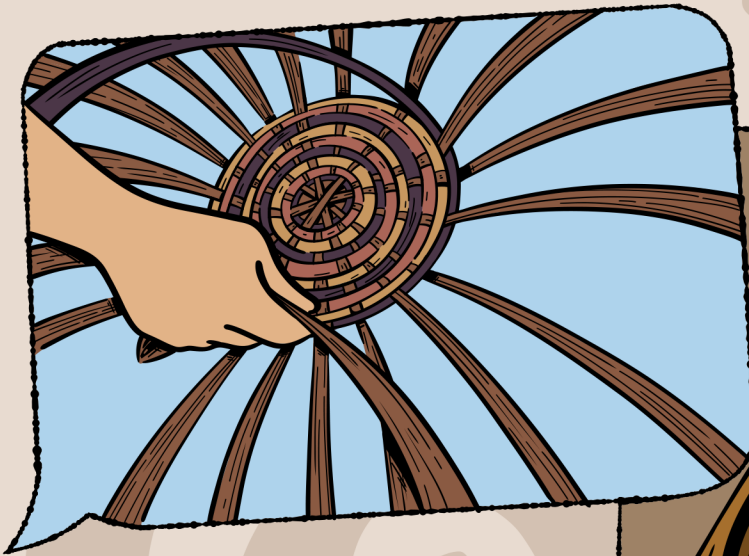


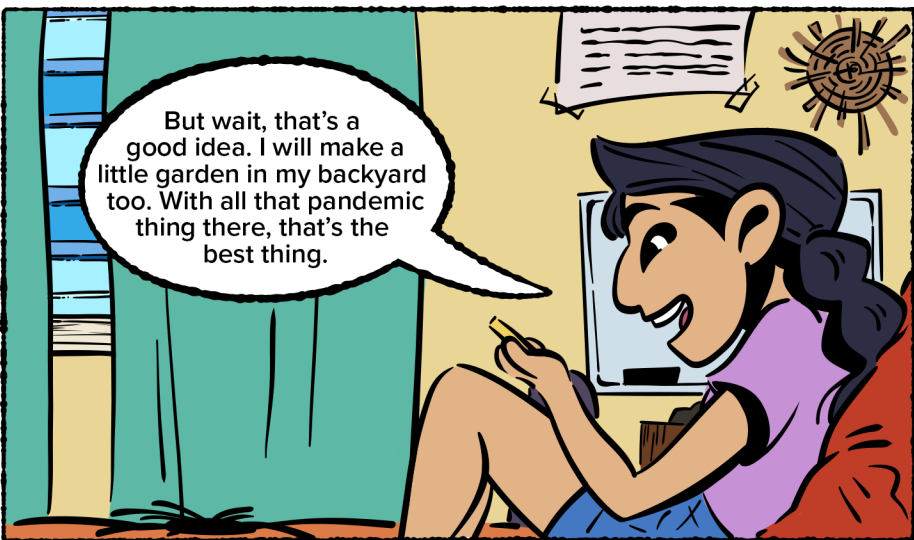
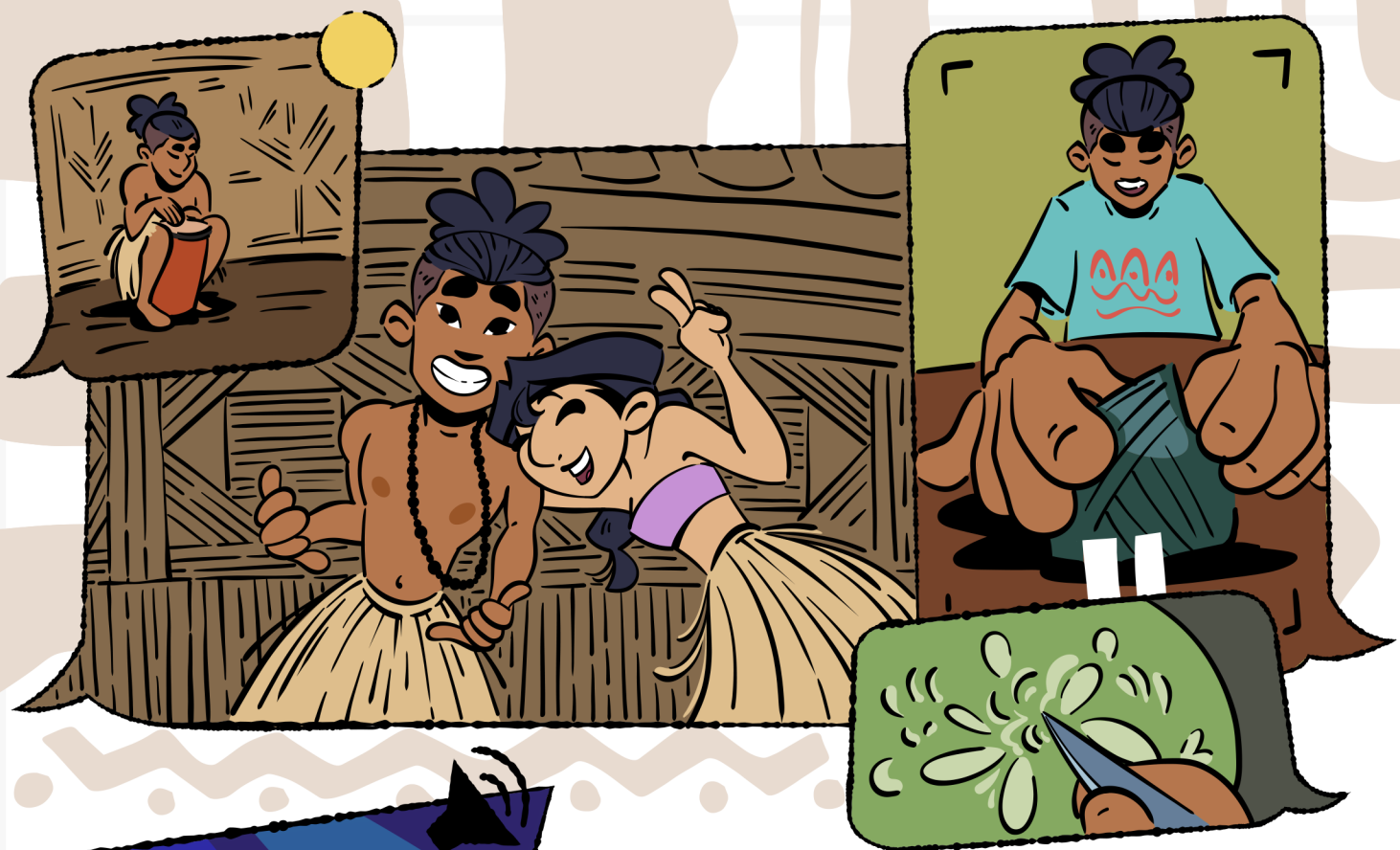


THE FOLLOWING DAY

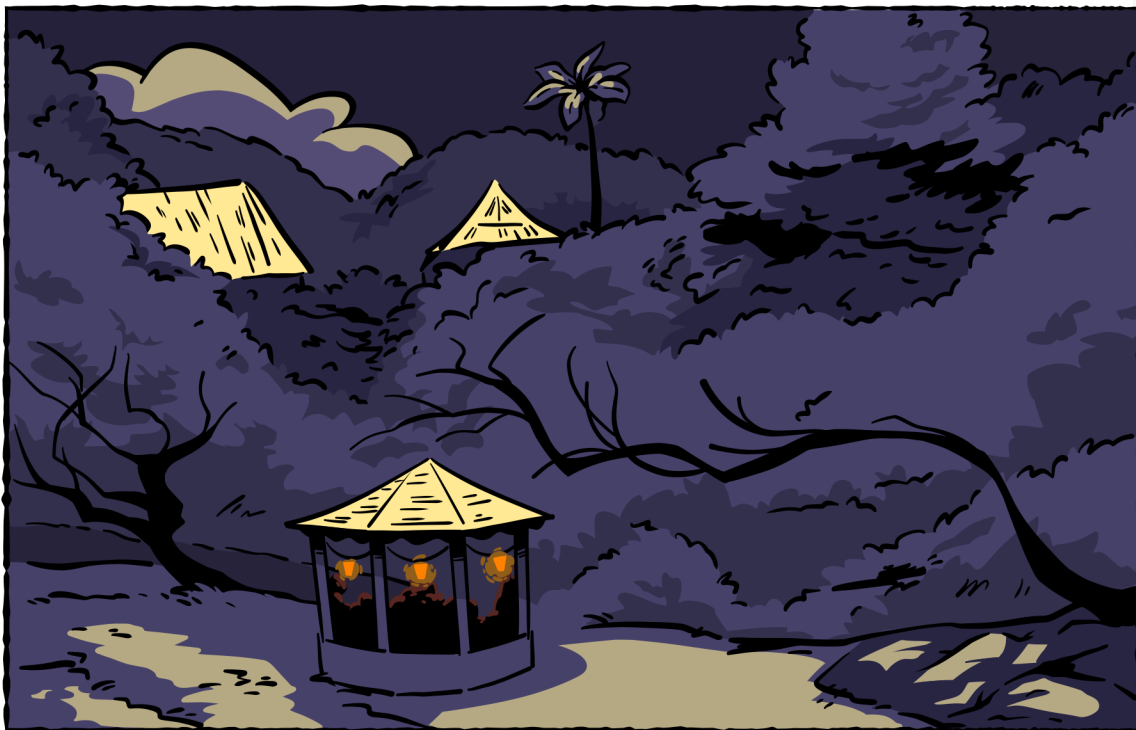
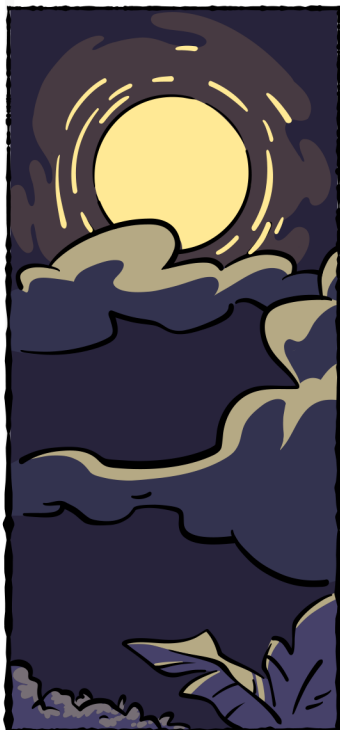






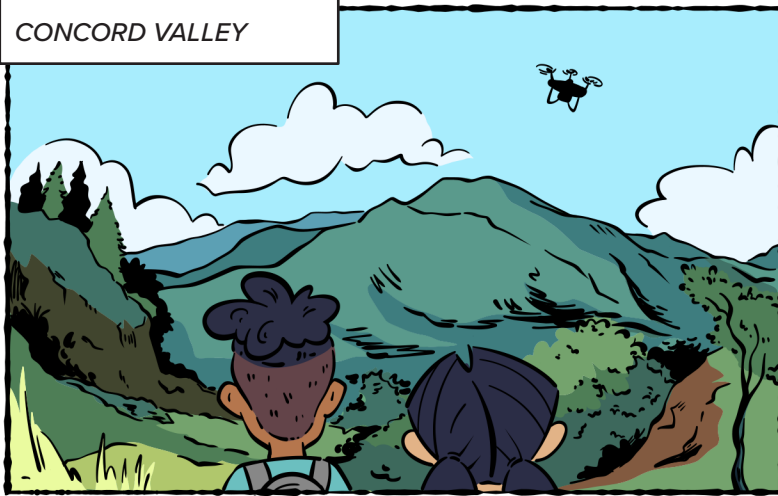


THE NAMING CEREMONY





CONCORD VALLEY



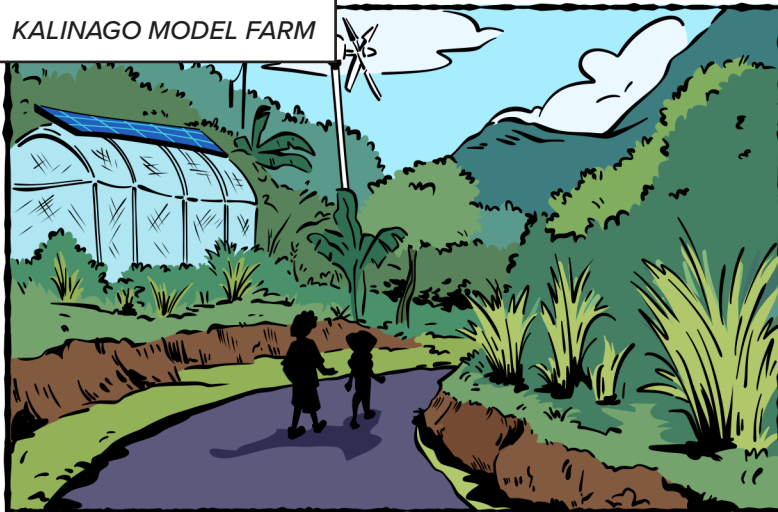
We going to follow the Kanawa Trail. We will start from the Lagli end and burst out in Chapara.



Good, we have to get some gommier sap for incense, one or two siwik, maybe a crayfish if we lucky.



KALINAGO MODEL FARM



Dem people have some serious equipment there wi.



And they doh forget de old vibes non. See how they using vetive grass to protect de soil.



SOMETIME LATER



They sapping all dem gommier wi.



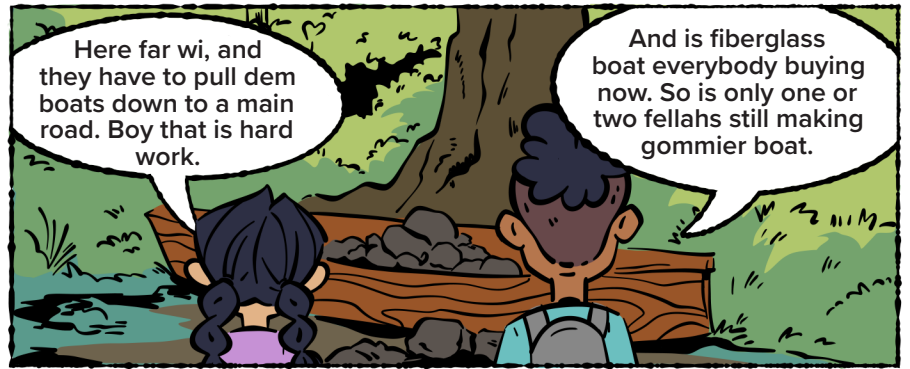
Maria self give de trees a bad beating.

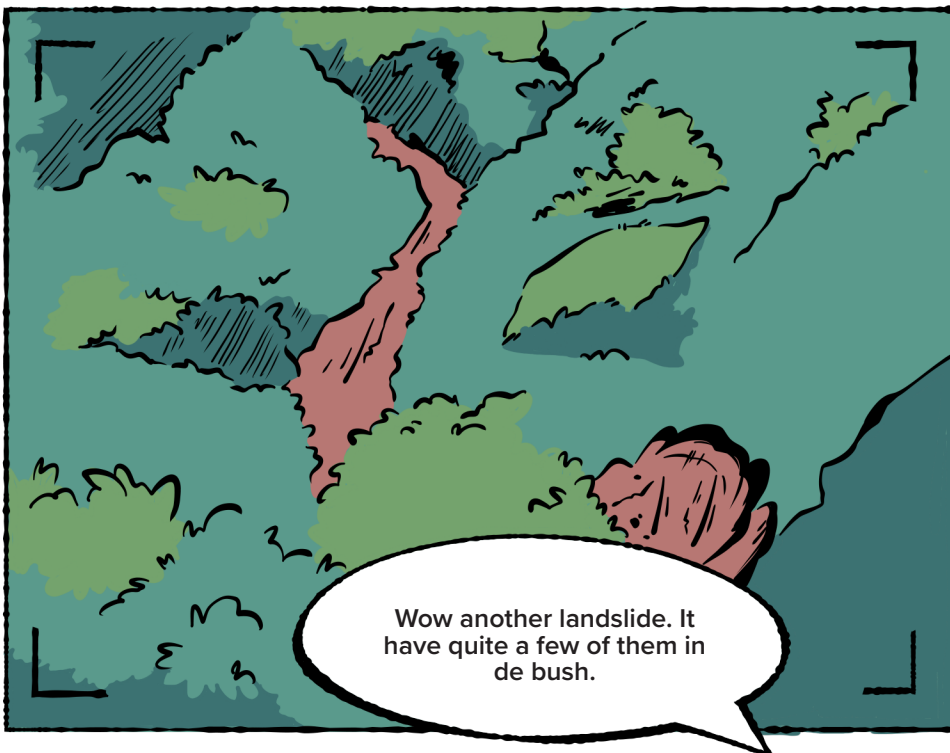
See how it messing up the trees.

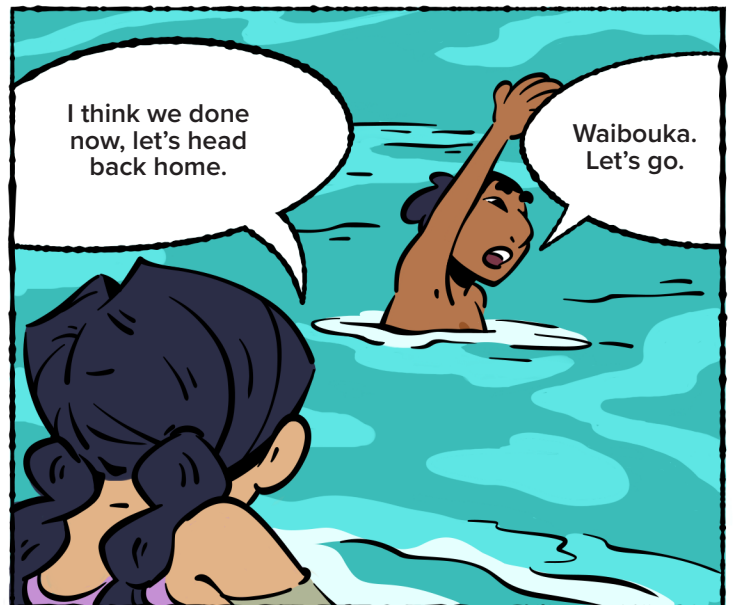
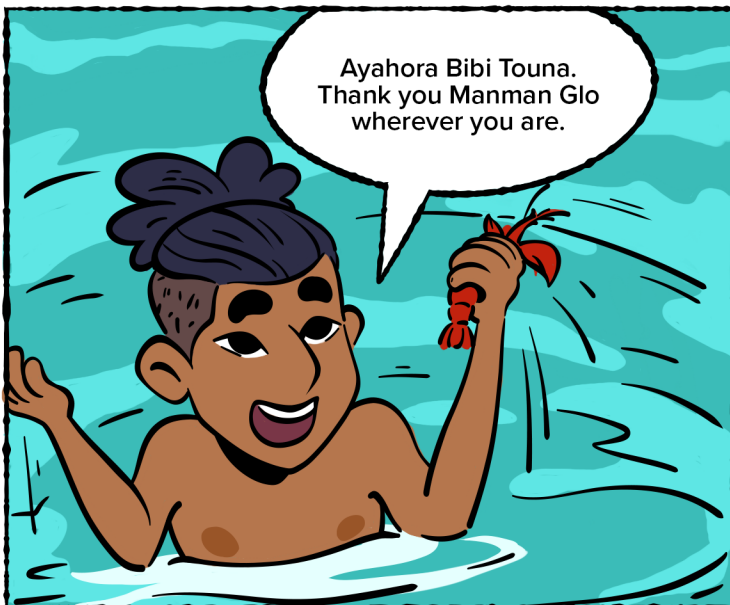


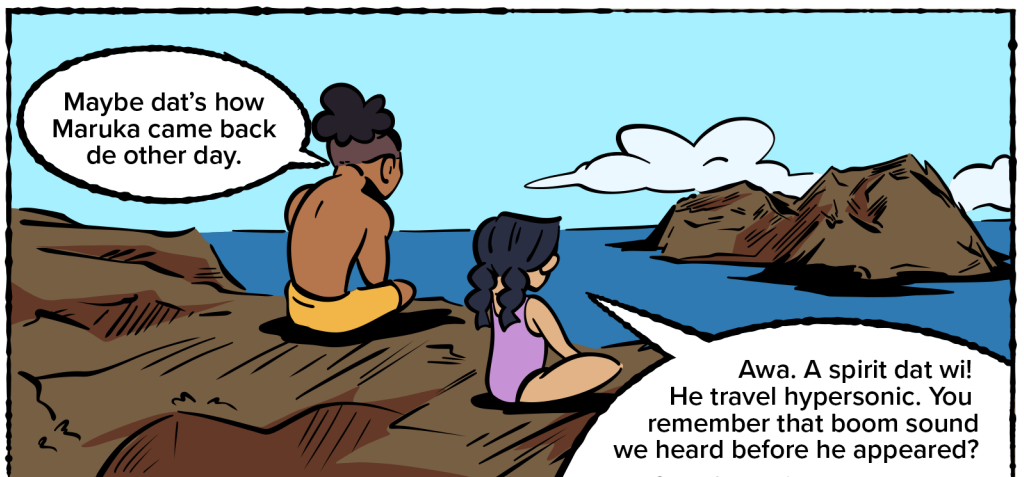
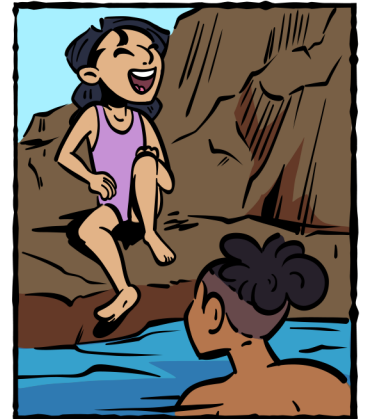
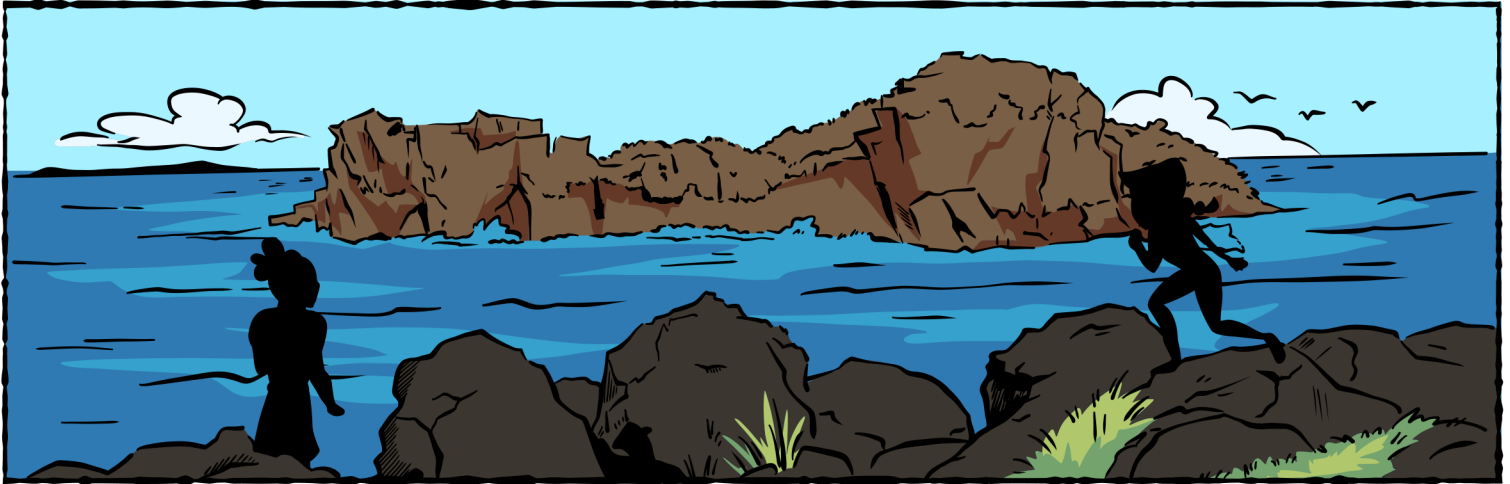
Let me send some pictures to de ouboutou.

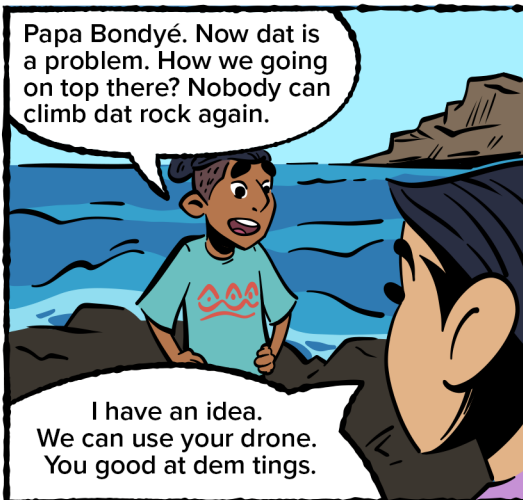
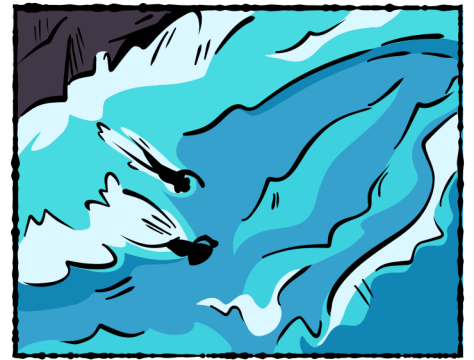






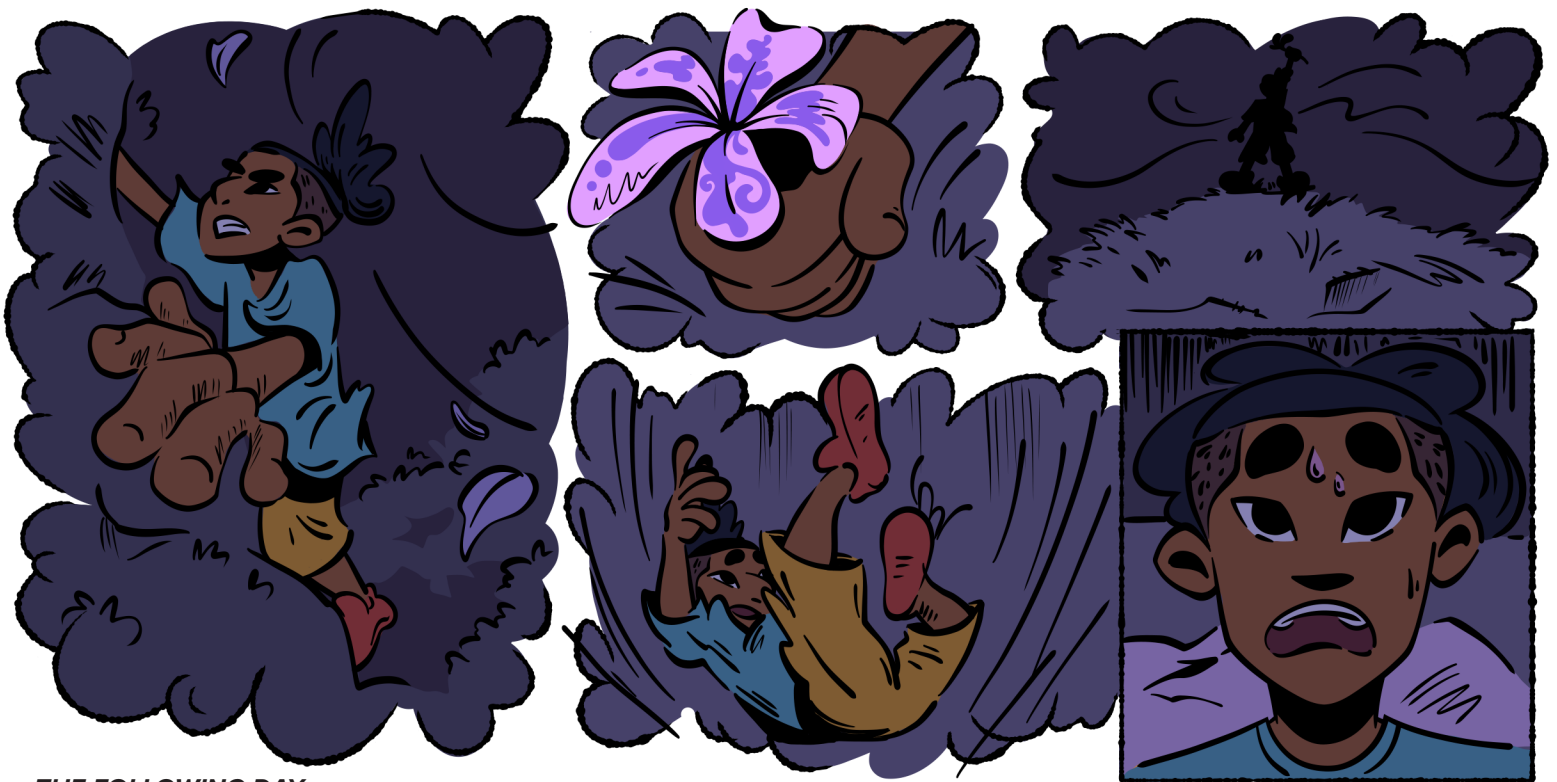




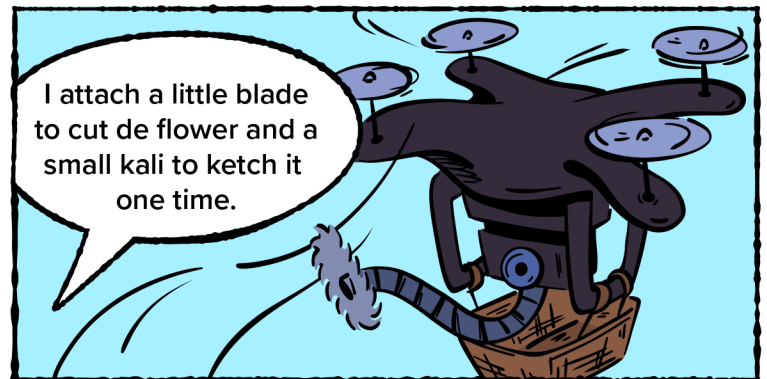
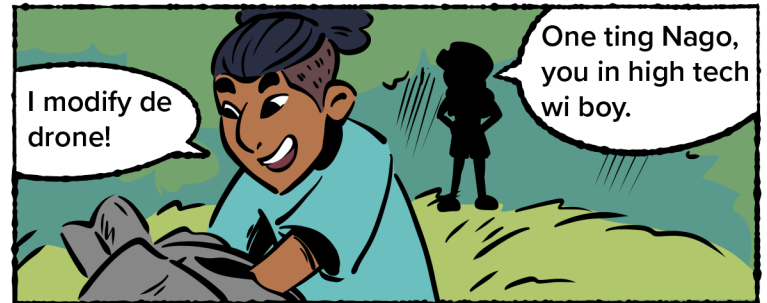
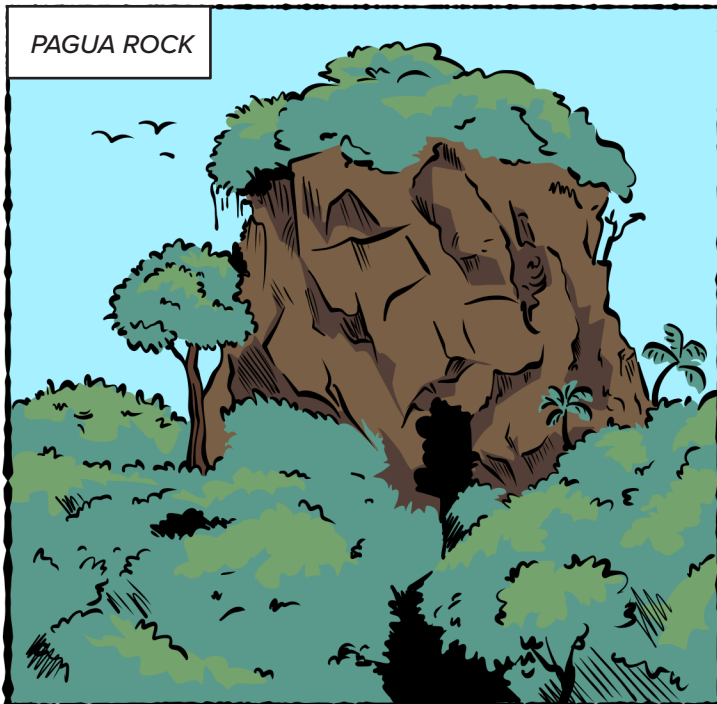


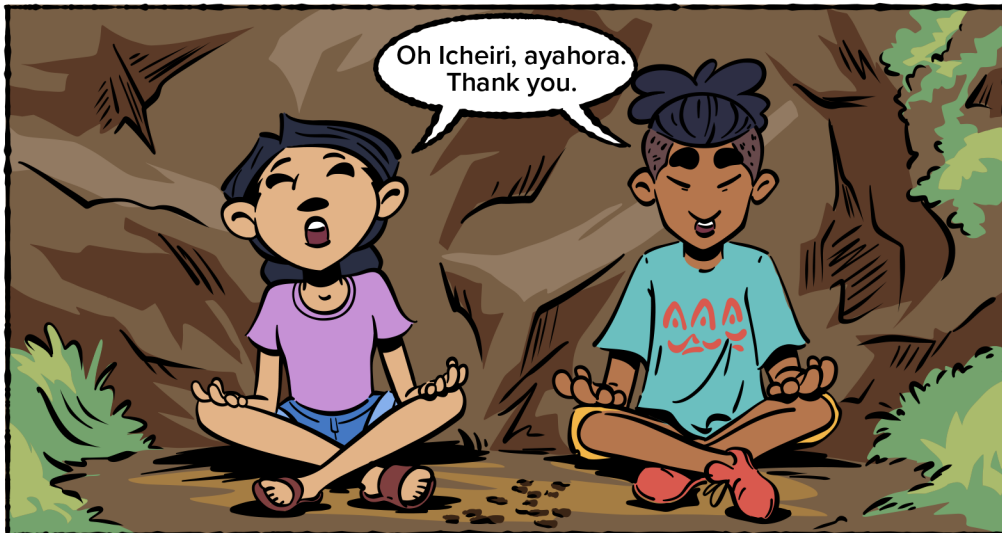
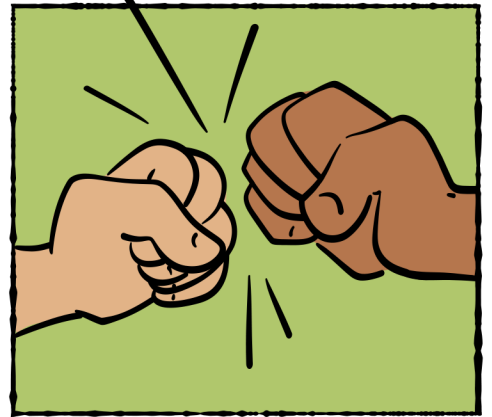
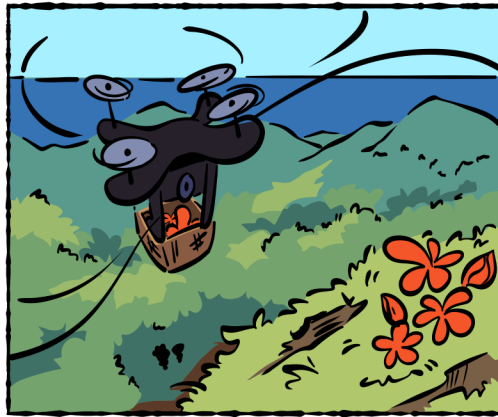
SEVERAL EVENINGS LATER



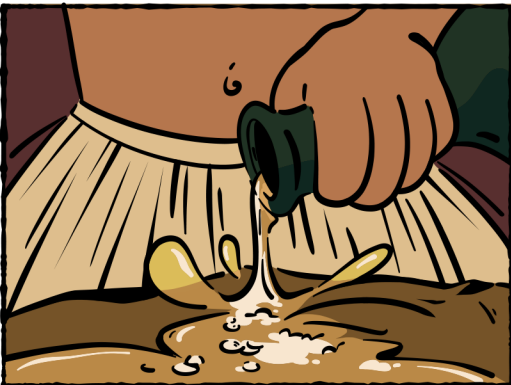
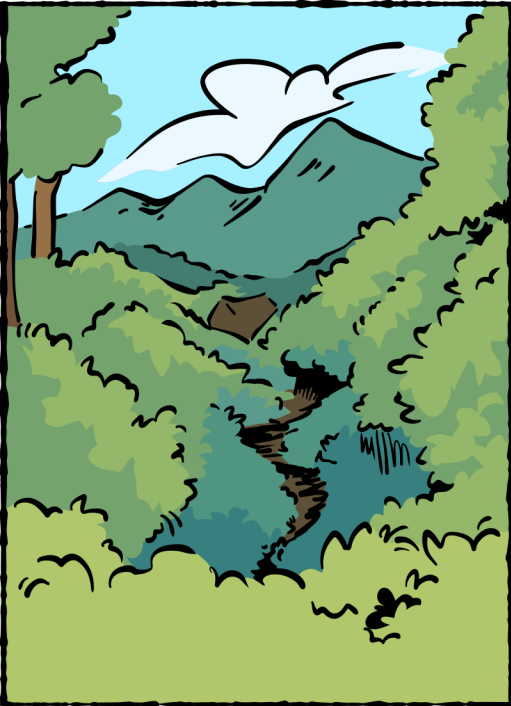
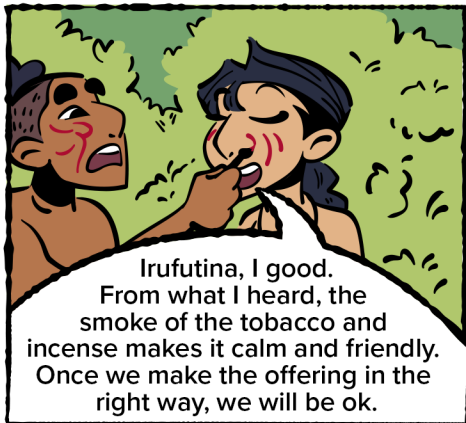
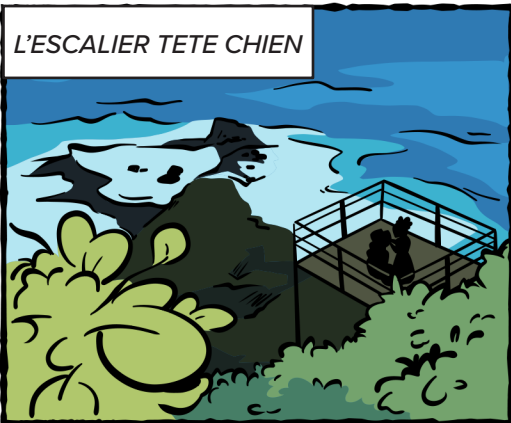


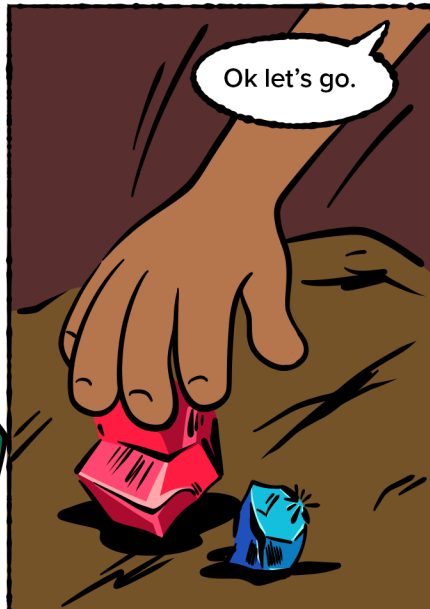
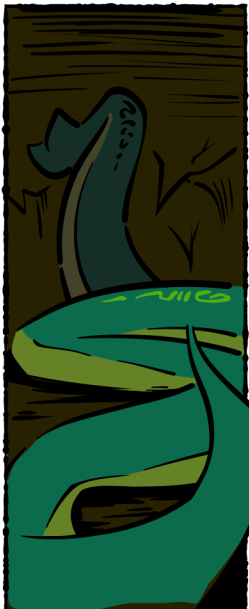
THE FOLLOWING DAY





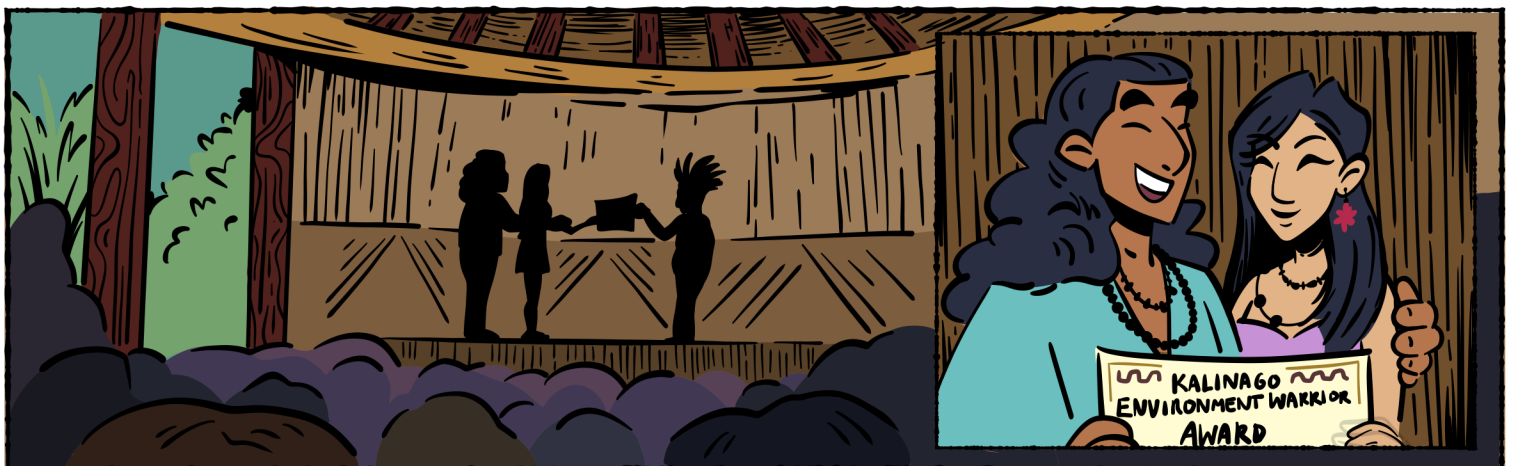
A VISIT TO THE GREAT BOA







SEVERAL YEARS LATER: KALINAGO AWARDS CEREMONY



The following glossary comprise words in Kalinago, Kwéyòl (French Creole) and Dominican English and their meanings in English.

KALINAGO

Aka	<i>and</i>
Anyan-Anyan	<i>a chant of the Kalinago while rowing their canoes</i>
Ao	<i>I am</i>
Atukaha bumuti	<i>you have done well</i>
Ayahora	<i>thank you</i>
Awa	<i>no</i>
Bibi touna	<i>mermaid</i>
Ele	<i>strength</i>
Hiyari hiya sosori so	<i>a chant whose meaning is unknown</i>
Ichairi	<i>God, great spirit</i>
Irufu	<i>good</i>
Iropomali	<i>wisdom</i>
Kanawa.....	<i>canoe</i>
Kalinago	<i>the kalinago people, the indigenous people of Dominica</i>
Katabou	<i>who are you?</i>
Kata biri	<i>what is your name?</i>
Kata bayoumouracoua ...	<i>what is your wish?</i>
Lawouman	<i>plant used for making baskets and other similar craft</i>
Mabrika	<i>good day, salutations</i>
Makrabutina	<i>I am thirsty</i>
Miri miriti	<i>brilliant, shiny, from which Miri's name was derived</i>
Orinoco	<i>north east region of South America along the Orinoco river</i>
Ouboutou	<i>chief</i>
Waibouka	<i>let's go</i>
Waitukubuli	<i>kalinago name for Dominica meaning 'tall is her body'.</i>
Zagaya	<i>a type of sea crab</i>

KWEYOL

Bwigo	<i>a type of large sea snail (West Indian top shell)</i>
Chaloup	<i>a type of small sea snail</i>
Gonndi	<i>pincer (of crab)</i>
Kòd glo	<i>water vine</i>
Lafen dimoun	<i>end of the world</i>
Manman glo	<i>mermaid</i>
Non	<i>no</i>
Papamèt	<i>oh God, oh gosh</i>
Papa bondyé	<i>God, oh God</i>
Siwik	<i>a type of land crab</i>
Soukouyan	<i>witch</i>
Wi	<i>yes</i>
Woy	<i>oh gosh</i>

DOMINICAN ENGLISH

Aself	<i>myself</i>
Boasta	<i>boaster</i>
DA	<i>Dominica</i>
Dat	<i>that</i>
De	<i>the</i>
Dem	<i>them, these, those</i>
Dem man	<i>those men</i>
Dey	<i>they</i>
Doh	<i>though, do not, don't, did not</i>
Eh eh	<i>an exclamation of surprise</i>
Fada	<i>father</i>
Fellahs	<i>fellows</i>
Fraid	<i>afraid</i>
It have	<i>there is</i>
Moda	<i>mother</i>
Vari	<i>style</i>
Yes wi	<i>yes (literally yes yes)</i>
Ya wi	<i>yes (literally yes yes)</i>
Yo doh hearing	<i>you are not hearing</i>

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