



The Escazú Agreement



Placing equality at the centre of sustainable development and **leaving no one behind**



Environmental Information



Participation in environmental decision-making



Access to justice in environmental matters



Environmental defenders

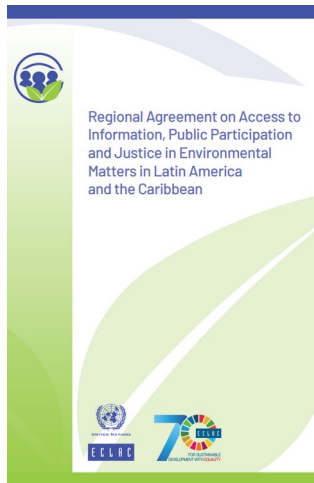


Capacity-building and cooperation

Carlos de Miguel, Head, Policies for Sustainable Development Unit
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

National online workshop "Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Antigua and Barbuda"

Basic facts about the Escazú Agreement



Adopted in Escazú (Costa Rica) on **4 March 2018**

Entered into force **22 April 2021**

- Only treaty stemming from the UN Rio+20 Conference
- First regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Latest Multilateral Environmental Agreement adopted at the UN
- First treaty in the world with specific binding provisions on **environmental human rights defenders**

Open to the **33** LAC countries

24 have already signed it

Country	Signature	State party since
 <u>Antigua and Barbuda</u>	27/09/2018	04/03/2020

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Uruguay



Adoption ceremony at Escazú (Costa Rica), 4 March 2018

Objective (art. 1)

Guarantee the full and effective **implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of environmental access rights **and** the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation**



Information



Participation



Justice



Capacity-building
Cooperation



contributing to the protection of the **right** of every person of present and future generations **to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.**



UNITED NATIONS

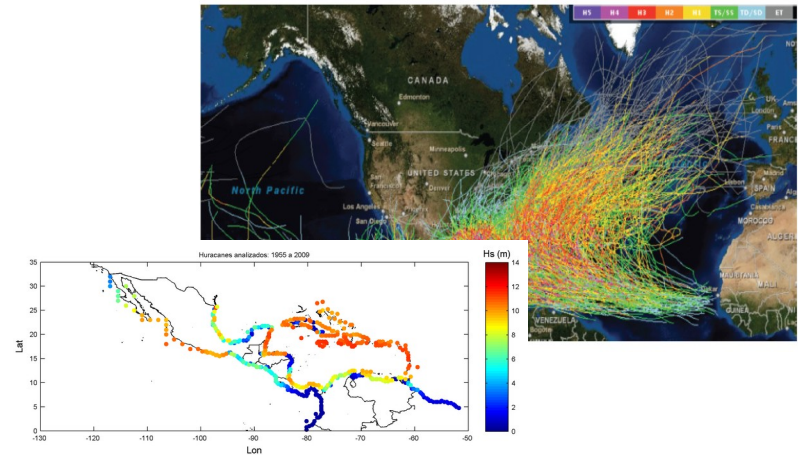
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Underlying basis of the Escazú Agreement



Environmental issues are best handled with the active participation of all concerned

Access to environmental information is critical for sound policy-making



Environmental harm must be prevented and remedied

Regional cooperation is key

Salient features of the Escazú Agreement



- **Achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development**
- **Rights-based**
- **People-centered**
- **Leave no one behind**
- **Capacity-building and cooperation**

Environmental dimension of sustainable development

Generation and access to environmental knowledge and information

Meaningful engagement of all sectors of society

Redress and remedy against environmental harm

Special consideration of Small Island Developing States

Implementation support

Progressive realization



Environmental information

- ▶ Access to information (art. 5)
 - ▶ *Accessibility*
 - ▶ *Refusal of access*
 - ▶ *Conditions for delivery (format, timeframes, cost)*
 - ▶ *Independent review mechanisms*

- ▶ Generation and dissemination of information (art. 6)
 - ▶ *Environmental information systems*
 - ▶ *Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)*
 - ▶ *Disasters / early warning systems*
 - ▶ *Report on State of Environment*
 - ▶ *Information for consumers and users*
 - ▶ *Company sustainability reports*



United Nations



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**



“The region has a valuable tool to seek people-centred solutions grounded in nature”: **the Escazú Agreement.**

*UN Secretary-General Policy Brief:
The Impact of COVID-19 on Latin America and the Caribbean (2020)*

By enhancing access to data, knowledge, and information, and by engaging vulnerable groups, **it upholds fundamental values of democratic life and fosters responsive public policies.**

When the agreement enters into force and is implemented, countries will be **better placed to preserve their strategic natural heritage through more inclusive and community-oriented actions**

OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability welcomes the **Enhance Programme of Action on the Escazú Agreement in the Eastern Caribbean**



Scope of OECS–ECLAC MoU:

- facilitating **policy** formulation,
- **technical** cooperation,
- training and **capacity-building**
- strategic **advocacy** and awareness,
- joint **studies**, publications, reports and analytical work
- Promoting a **green recovery** COVID-19

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the duly authorised representatives of the Parties, affix their signatures below in two originals in English



Dr. Didacus Jules
Director-General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States



Ms. Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

*"... provides an excellent platform and **framework for advancing the aspirations of our Small Island Developing States**" - Dr. Didacus Jules*

*"... is the first and only of its kind concluded by ECLAC as Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement and **reinforces our Caribbean First Strategy**" - Ms. Alicia Bárcena*



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Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean



Escazú Agreement

31 OCT - 12 NOV 2021
GLASGOW
COP26
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The Escazú Agreement at COP26 on climate change
Get to know the activities on the Agreement at COP26 taking place between 31 October and 12 November 2021

24 Signatures

12 Ratifications

How to participate in the Regional Agreement?

Meetings

15/10/2021
Cooperation between the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement to promote the protection of access rights and of environmental defenders

23/09/2021
Webinar informativo sobre implementación del Acuerdo de Escazú y sus implicancias sobre el Sector Minero en el territorio argentino

28/07/2021
Seminar on the Escazú Agreement for Government officials and relevant stakeholders in Belize

Regional Agreement



The certified true copies of the Regional Agreement are available at the website of the United Nations Treaty Section

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Portuguese](#)

News

25/10/2021
The Escazú Agreement at COP26 on climate change

15/07/2021
The Time Has Come to Bolster Access to Environmental Information, Participation and Justice, to Build a More Resilient and Sustainable World: Alicia Bárcena

21/05/2021
OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental



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Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean

HOME COUNTRIES RIGHTS TOPICS POLICY INSTRUMENTS JURISPRUDENCE TREATIES

The Observatory analyses legislation, policies, jurisprudence and treaties that guarantee the rights of every person to public participation and justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

Information



23 countries have enacted freedom of information acts

Participation



76% of the countries include provisions to promote public participation in general environmental laws

★ Feat



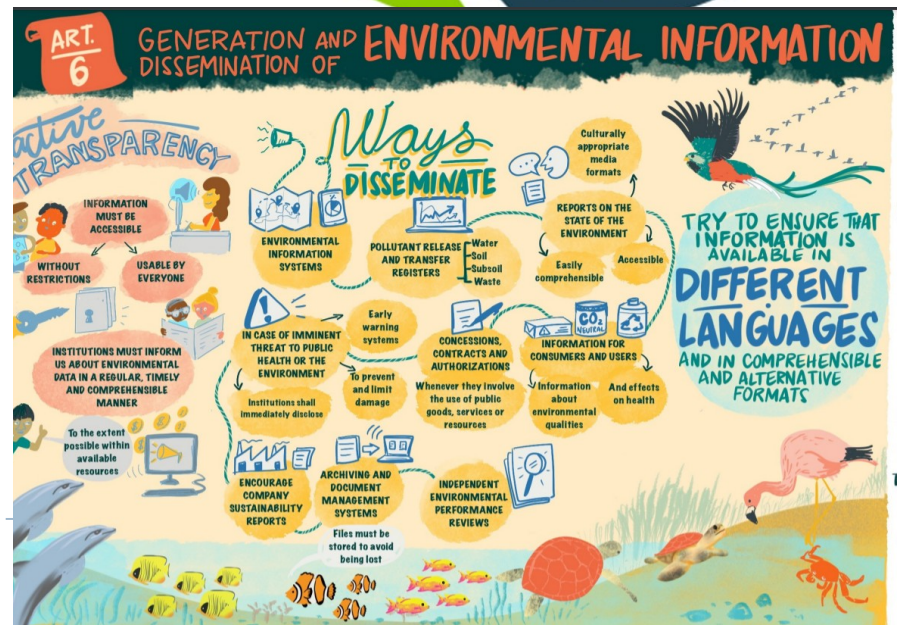
BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

Grenada accedes to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Friday, October 15, 2021



Introductory Course on SDG 16 and access rights, the Aarhus Convention, and the Escazú Agreement



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Escazú Agreement

READ THE AGREEMENT

GET TO KNOW THE OBSERVATORY

United Nations, 2021



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Contact

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Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
United Nations, ECLAC

<http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>

<http://observatoriop10.cepal.org>

#AcuerdodeEscazú **#EscazúAgreement**
