



## 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

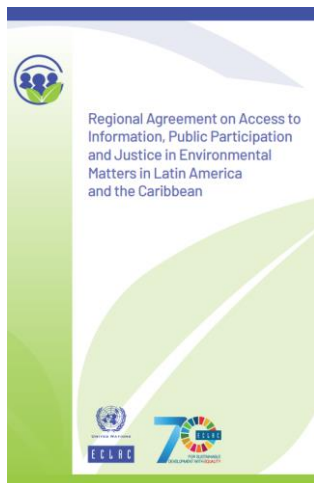


Capacity-building and cooperation

Online workshop "Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Suriname"

13 July 2021

# Basic facts about the Escazú Agreement



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

Entered into force on **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 to be adopted at the UN
- First treaty in the world with specific binding provisions on environmental human rights defenders

Open to the **33** LAC countries

Adopted by **24** countries

**24** have signed it

**12 ratifications**



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

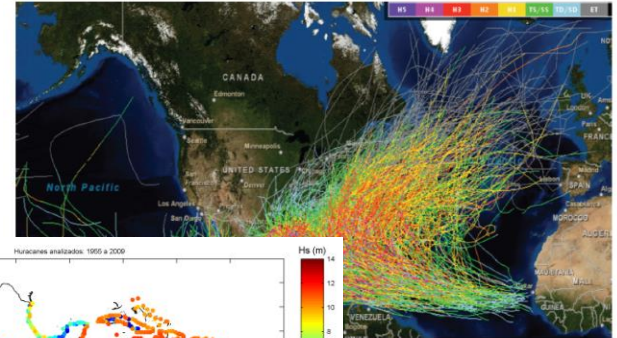
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# Underlying basis of the Escazú Agreement



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

**Access to environmental information is critical for sound policy-making**



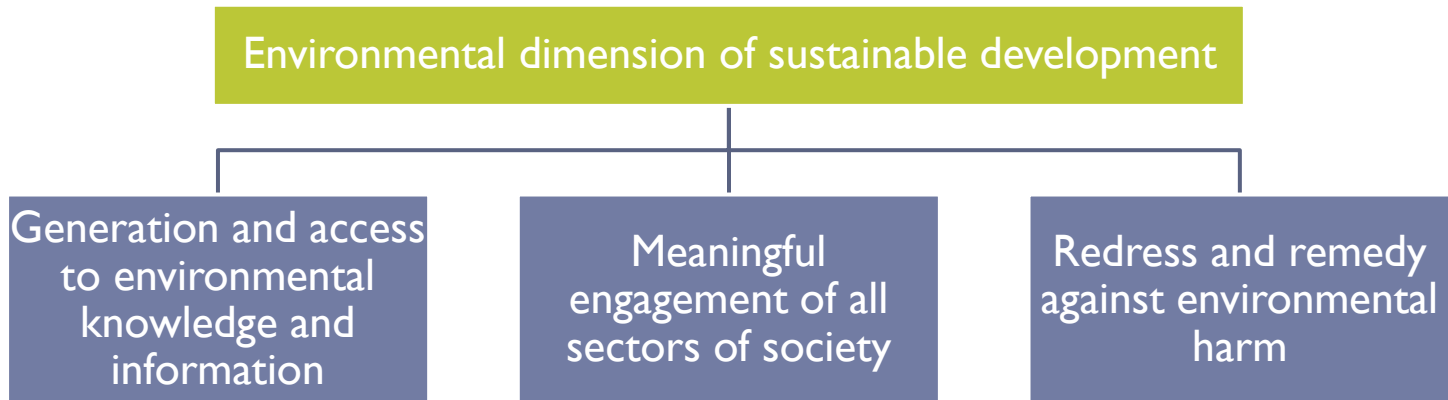
**Environmental harm must be prevented and remedied**

**Regional cooperation is key**

# Salient features of the Escazú Agreement



- **Rights-based**
- **People-centered**
- **Leave no one behind**
- **Capacity-building and cooperation**



**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*
  - ▶ *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**





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# Contact

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Secretariat – Escazú Agreement

Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division  
United Nations, ECLAC

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

<http://observatoriop10.cepal.org>

**#AcuerdodeEscazú**      **#EscazúAgreement**

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