

# United Nations Development Account

## Terminal Evaluation of “DA 2124P”

*“Enhancing access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean to build back greener, fairer, and better”  
(2021-2024)*

*Report completed: May 2025*

*Evaluation conducted by: Ernesto Ugarte*



**Development Account**  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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UNITED NATIONS



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This report was commissioned by ECLAC. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of this report are those of the external evaluator and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ECLAC.

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AG	<i>Association Agreement</i>
COP	<i>Conference of the Parties</i>
DA	<i>Development Account</i>
EA	<i>Expected accomplishment</i>
ECLAC	<i>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</i>
EPR	<i>Environmental performance review</i>
GIZ	<i>Agency for International Cooperation</i>
IA	<i>Indicator of achievement</i>
IPU	<i>Inter-Parliamentary Union</i>
LAC	<i>Latin America Caribe</i>
M&E	<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>
MoU	<i>Memorandum of understanding</i>
NGO	<i>Non-governmental organization</i>
OECD	<i>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</i>
OECS	<i>Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States</i>
OHCHR	<i>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</i>
PPOD	<i>Programme Planning and Operations Division</i>
SDG	<i>Sustainable Development Goal</i>
SDHSD	<i>Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division</i>
TA	<i>Technical Assistance/Advisory</i>
ToR	<i>Terms of Reference</i>
UNEG	<i>United Nations Evaluation Group</i>
UNEP	<i>United Nations Environment Programme</i>
UNFCCC	<i>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</i>
UNITAR	<i>United Nations Institute for Training and Research</i>

## Executive summary

### Overview of the Project

*The Development Account Project 2124P: “Enhancing access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean to build back greener, fairer, and better” (called the project from now onwards) was designed to enhance the capacities of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters. This initiative aimed to support the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement as a key driver for promoting environmental governance, sustainable development, and human rights. The project was implemented over a specified period (January 2021 – June 2024) under the framework of the United Nations Development Account (DA). The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) served as the primary implementing entity, collaborating with various UN agencies, regional organizations, and national governments to foster the objectives of the Escazú Agreement.*

### Evaluation Purpose, Objectives, Scope, and Intended Users

*The primary purpose of this evaluation is to assess the performance of ECLAC in implementing the project related to the functioning of the Escazú Agreement in LAC. Specifically, the evaluation aims to:*

- ◆ *Assess the effectiveness of ECLAC's role in providing technical assistance, capacity-building, and stakeholder engagement mechanisms.*
- ◆ *Examine the efficiency of resource allocation and coordination mechanisms in supporting the Agreement.*
- ◆ *Evaluate the relevance of the Agreement's implementation strategies in addressing regional environmental governance challenges.*
- ◆ *Identify key lessons learned and recommendations for strengthening the sustainability of implementation efforts.*

*The scope of the evaluation covers the project activities, focusing on institutional support, policy advocacy, and stakeholder engagement at national and regional levels. The intended users of this evaluation include policymakers, environmental organizations, civil society actors, and international development partners engaged in the Escazú Agreement's implementation.*

### Evaluation Methodology

*The evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques to ensure a comprehensive analysis. Key methodological components included:*

- **Document Review:** *Analysis of official reports, policy documents, and progress assessments related to the Agreement.*

- **Stakeholder Consultations:** Interviews and surveys with government representatives, civil society organizations, indigenous groups<sup>1</sup>, and international agencies involved in the Agreement's implementation.
- **Country References:** The initially proposed "Case/Country Studies" approach was adapted to focus on analyzing "Country References." The examination of specific country experiences in relation to the implementation of the Escazú Agreement provided valuable insights into best practices, challenges, and each country's positioning toward the Agreement's implementation. The consultations proved highly illustrative and enriched the evaluation's findings.
- **Comparative Analysis:** While the original objective was to benchmark the implementation of the Escazú Agreement against other international environmental governance frameworks to assess alignment and identify potential gaps, in practice, the comparative component was limited. The analysis primarily drew on a few sub-regional experiences and selected country-to-country references, which nonetheless provided relevant insights into national approaches to environmental rights and governance.

## Summary of Key Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations

### ◆ Key Findings

- **Relevance:** The project was highly relevant in the context of regional environmental governance and human rights. It addressed critical needs among countries seeking to ratify and implement the Escazú Agreement, providing practical tools, institutional support, and capacity-building. Non-target countries such as Peru also expressed interest in the project's content and principles, highlighting its broader regional significance.
- **Efficiency:** The project made effective use of available resources in key areas such as regional coordination, training, and knowledge dissemination. While opportunities remain to further enhance civil society engagement and strengthen partnerships with academia and the private sector, the foundations laid through this initiative provide a strong basis for future collaboration and outreach.
- **Effectiveness:** The project successfully achieved its intended outputs, including the development of the Escazú Implementation Guide, the preparation of national roadmaps, and the promotion of regional dialogue through participation in COP meetings. These accomplishments significantly contributed to advancing the implementation of the Escazú Agreement. While the depth of implementation varied

<sup>1</sup> Interviews were conducted in Peru, specifically in Tambopata, and with a defense lawyer from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP) representing indigenous associations such as SIPAS, Machiguenga, and HUYCU in the VRAE and Amazon regions. In Mexico, the Secretary of Social Affairs provided insights into the situation of indigenous groups, as well as women's and youth organizations. Additionally, a representative of the Yunani group in Ecuador was interviewed, contributing further perspectives on indigenous issues.

across countries due to differing *political, social, and institutional contexts*, the project established a solid foundation for continued progress and adaptation to local realities.

- **Sustainability:** While the project laid a solid foundation for long-term impact, its sustainability depends on continued political commitment, resource mobilization, and expanded stakeholder engagement. Follow-up support is needed, particularly in non-ratifying and low-capacity countries.
- **Coherence:** The project was well aligned with the mandates of LAC countries and with international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda. It promoted synergies across UN agencies, national governments, and regional entities but would benefit from stronger integration of cross-cutting themes such as gender and indigenous rights.

### ◆ **Conclusions**

The project's contributions have been instrumental in strengthening institutions, developing policies, and improving legal frameworks to enhance transparency, access to information, and public participation in environmental matters. However, challenges persist, particularly in ensuring broader public engagement, securing adequate resources, and maintaining strong political commitment across all signatory countries.

### ◆ **Recommendations**

1. **Enhance Engagement of the Public further.** Design and implement inclusive consultation frameworks that ensure the participation of grassroots organizations, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups.
2. **Expand and Sustain Financial Resources.** Mobilize additional resources through international donors, multilateral development banks, and regional partnerships
3. **Promote Political Buy-in and Raise Additional Awareness.** Convene regional forums and work with regional bodies to mainstream Escazú priorities in broader development agendas.
4. **Within the public, increase the engagement of the Private Sector and linkages with Corporate Responsibility.** Organize regional dialogues with the private sector to align Escazú's transparency goals with sustainable business practices.
5. **Strengthen Legal Frameworks and Enforcement.** Support countries in harmonizing national legislation with Escazú principles, including access to justice and data transparency
6. **Improve Regional Coordination and Knowledge Sharing.** Harmonize data standards, legal definitions, and participatory processes across countries to strengthen coherence.
7. **Strengthen Regional Action to Protect Environmental Defenders More Effectively.** Strengthen national protection frameworks and promote accountability through investigation and prosecution of crimes.

### ◆ **Lessons Learned**

- Regional legal frameworks like Escazú require sustained political and social engagement beyond government institutions.
- Implementation is more effective when civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector are integrated from the outset.



- Flexibility in project design is essential to address disparities in national capacities and changing political contexts.
- The development of user-friendly tools such as implementation guides can significantly enhance uptake and localization of regional agreeme

# 1. Introduction

## Project Overview

The Development Account Project 2124P: *“Enhancing access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean to build back greener, fairer, and better”* (call the project from now onwards) was designed to enhance the capacities of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters. This initiative aimed to support the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement as a key driver for promoting environmental governance, sustainable development, and human rights. The project was implemented over a specified period (January 2021 – June 2024) under the framework of the United Nations Development Account (DA). The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) served as the primary implementing entity, collaborating with various UN agencies, regional organizations, and national governments to foster the objectives of the Escazú Agreement.

## Background to the Evaluation

This evaluation was commissioned to assess the project’s performance, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. The evaluation is being conducted at the conclusion of the project cycle to determine the extent to which the planned objectives and expected outcomes have been achieved. Given the growing emphasis on environmental rights and sustainable development in the LAC region, this assessment seeks to generate evidence-based insights to inform future UN initiatives and cooperation programs.

The evaluation covers the entire project duration and all activities implemented across the region, including both direct interventions in target countries and broader advocacy efforts beyond the original scope. This review aligns with ECLAC’s strategic approach to strengthening environmental democracy and enhancing regional cooperation in environmental governance.

## Purpose and Objectives of the Evaluation

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to assess the achievements, challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned from the project’s implementation. The evaluation will:

- Measure the extent to which the project has contributed to improving environmental governance in the LAC region, particularly in terms of transparency, inclusivity, and legal frameworks.
- Identify key factors that have influenced project performance, including best practices and constraints encountered during implementation.
- Provide recommendations for strengthening future projects and initiatives aimed at supporting the Escazú Agreement and related environmental governance frameworks.

This evaluation adopts a results-oriented approach, applying OECD DAC evaluation criteria—relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. In addition, cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, climate resilience, vulnerable groups, and civil society engagement are examined in relation to the project’s contribution.

### **Primary Users and Audience**

The findings of this evaluation are intended for multiple stakeholders, including:

- **ECLAC and Other UN Agencies:** To enhance the design, implementation, and coordination of future projects supporting the Escazú Agreement.
- **National Governments and Policymakers:** To provide insights into effective environmental governance strategies and best practices in access to information, public participation, and justice.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Environmental Advocates:** To strengthen their role in promoting and implementing the principles of the Escazú Agreement.
- **Donors and International Partners:** To guide future investments in environmental governance and human rights initiatives in the LAC region.

This evaluation will provide actionable recommendations to improve regional cooperation, enhance project sustainability, and ensure long-term positive impacts in advancing environmental democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## 2. Description of the Project

### 2.1 Background

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations, charts a strategic pathway toward a more resilient, sustainable future, emphasizing greater dignity, prosperity, and equality for all. At the regional level, Latin American and Caribbean governments, with the support of ECLAC and significant public participation, further developed this vision by adopting the Escazú Agreement on March 4, 2018. This agreement emerged from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Río+20), becoming the first environmental treaty of the region and the world's first to require States to specifically protect environmental human rights defenders.

The Escazú Agreement safeguards the right of every person, present and future, to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development. It establishes procedural rights and guarantees aimed at addressing the region's most pressing environmental challenges, enhancing social cohesion, and promoting sound economic growth. Latin American and Caribbean countries committed to implementing access rights—access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters—while also building national capacities and fostering cooperation at all relevant levels. This agreement reflects the region's priorities and needs in achieving sustainable development goals.

Promoting access rights and engaging civil society, including NGOs, indigenous peoples, youth, women, academia, and other stakeholders, is crucial for reinforcing the ability of governments to address environmental issues effectively. The Escazú Agreement is marked by its human rights-based approach, placing particular focus on vulnerable groups. It emphasizes the importance of leaving no one behind in securing democratic principles, human rights, and environmental protection, ensuring equal access and participation for marginalized groups like women, youth, rural communities, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and environmental human rights defenders.

Gender inequality, recognized as one of the most pervasive threats to sustainable development, undermines efforts to provide access to a clean, safe, and healthy environment. The 2016 Global Gender and Environment Outlook<sup>2</sup> identified gender-disaggregated data and unequal inclusion of women in environmental decision-making as significant challenges. A recent ECLAC study highlighted the gendered impacts of environmental issues, such as water, energy, disasters, health, and agriculture<sup>3</sup>, further emphasizing the need to prioritize vulnerable populations in environmental policy.

Despite this regional achievement, countries in the region face varying levels of progress in implementing access rights. Challenges remain in terms of legal and policy frameworks, capacities, and resources, which hinder the full realization of the agreement's objectives. Some countries face acute capacity gaps, while others, particularly Small Island Developing States, require targeted support.

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<sup>2</sup> UN Environmental Program. May 2018

<sup>3</sup> See: "La transversalización del enfoque de género en las políticas públicas frente al cambio en América Latina". CEPAL (LC/TS.2017/19).

The Escazú Agreement mandates each Party to adopt necessary measures—whether legislative, regulatory, or administrative—to guarantee the implementation of its provisions. To ensure all countries fully understand their obligations, specific support is required, particularly for those with unique challenges.

The Development Account Project 2124P: *“Enhancing access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean to build back greener, fairer, and better”* seeks to reduce regional disparities by building capacities in the countries of the region for effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement. It will operate on national, sub-regional, and regional fronts, promoting policy coherence, coordination, and multi-level decision-making. In doing so, it aims to design and implement more effective sustainable development policies, strategies, and instruments.

The project’s relevance has been amplified in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic underscored the close relationship between the region’s societies and the environment, while also exacerbating existing inequalities, including in the environmental sector. It also highlighted the critical need for sound, participatory environmental responses. In these uncertain times, business as usual is no longer an option, and robust, transparent, and multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential to tackle urgent challenges. The Escazú Agreement offers a framework for post-pandemic recovery, guiding efforts for lasting change.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of environmental governance and deepened inequalities. It reinforced the need for robust, participatory environmental policies that safeguard rights while promoting sustainable recovery. As the UN Secretary-General has stated, the Escazú Agreement is a valuable tool for people-centered, nature-based solutions. By ensuring transparency, access to justice, and public participation, the Agreement provides a framework for resilient, inclusive environmental governance in the post-pandemic era.

The project is aligned with key global frameworks, including the UN General Assembly’s resolution on Global Solidarity to fight COVID-19 (A/RES/74/270), the Secretary-General’s report on Shared Responsibility, and the UN’s Framework for Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. It aims to reduce regional disparities by strengthening national, sub-regional, and regional capacities for effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement. Through promoting policy coherence, coordination, and multi-level decision-making, the project supports the design and implementation of more effective sustainable development strategies and instruments.

## **2.2 Project objectives and expected results**

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### **Key Futures of the Project**

- The project under evaluation is part of the projects approved under this account for the 13th Tranche (2020-2023). It was implemented by the ECLAC’s Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division.

- The duration of this project was of approximately three and half years, having started activities in January 2021, and with an estimated date of closure of June 2024<sup>4</sup>.
- The overall logic of the project against which results and impact have been assessed contains an overall objective and a set of expected accomplishments and **indicators of achievement** and together with the preparation of **the Theory of Change** have been used as signposts to assess its effectiveness and relevance.

## The project's objective

As stated in the Project Document its objective is:

*"enhancing the capacities of countries in access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters for the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean as an enabler and driver of coherent policies and approaches for the 2030 Agenda at all levels, particularly to build back greener, fairer and better in a post-COVID 19 scenario".*

## The expected accomplishments (EA)

- I. **EA1** Strengthen national capacities of governments in four selected target countries to meet the obligations assumed in the Escazú Agreement.
- II. **EA2** Strengthened capacity of national stakeholders in four selected target countries to implement the obligations contained in the Escazú Agreement using transparent, participatory and inclusive policies and processes.

The Planned Output under each expected accomplishment are represented in the following table.

### Planned Output under Expected Accomplishment 1. Government Capacity improved

**OP1.1** Organized one multi-stakeholder seminar to share best practices and experiences, strengthen national capacities of government officials related to environmental access rights and prepare and discuss the regional assessment on the basis of the discussions on common challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities identified;

**OP1.2** Update regional assessment based on common challenges, needs and good practices to support the implementation of environmental access rights, increasing the capacities of governments in the region to meet the obligations of the Escazú Agreement;

<sup>4</sup> Officially the Project finished on June 24, however, there is still pending issues linked to implementation until June 2025 (Organization and execution of COP 4 in Santiago)

**OP1.3** Enhanced the regional Observatory on Principle 10, expanding it with key information and resources to support national implementation actions and improving visibility and use by countries of the region in line with article 12 of the Escazú Agreement (clearing house), supporting awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts of the different stakeholders.

**OP 1.4** Prepared different promotional materials to raise general awareness about environmental access rights and the Escazú Agreement in the general public, with a special 4 focus on persons and groups in vulnerable situations and seeking to educate the public at large about their environmental access rights.

◆ **Planned Output under Expected Accomplishment 2. Capacity of Stakeholders Improved**

**OP2.1** Delivered an e-learning course on the Regional Agreement to raise awareness and strengthen understanding of obligations and implications of regional and national stakeholders, targeting particularly relevant government officials responsible for the implementation of international obligations;

**OP2.2** Prepared accessible versions of the EA and implementation materials in different languages and alternative formats for promote knowledge of rights and dissemination across all sectors of society, including persons and groups in vulnerable situation, such versions for youth, persons with disabilities or in indigenous languages.

**OP2.3** Deliver two national multi-stakeholder participatory capacity-building workshops in each selected target country to build capacities of various actors and provide technical assistance to take recommended measures and actions;

**OP2.4** Organized one regional and two subregional meetings (one for Latin America and one for the Caribbean) of relevant stakeholders to discuss common challenges and exchange best practices on the implementation of the Regional Agreement at the national level, building on the national activities and sharing lessons learned;

**OP2.5** Conducted technical advisory missions as and when required to support target countries in assessing needs and implementing work plans for action.

## **2.3 Project strategies and key activities**

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### **Project Interventions and Response Strategy**

The project has been designed to support the functioning of the Escazú Agreement regionally and in target countries with a response strategy associate to several dimensions:

- **Alignment with the 2030 Agenda.** Supports sustainable development by addressing regional environmental challenges and fostering social cohesion.
- **Human Rights Focus.** Protects vulnerable groups and environmental defenders, ensuring inclusive participation in environmental decision-making
- **Capacity Building.** Supports countries in building national capacities for effective implementation of access rights

- **Challenges in Implementation:** Varying capacities across countries hinder the effectiveness of the agreement
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Encourages collaboration, policy-coherence, and transparent decision-making at national, sub-regional, and regional levels.
- **Relevance in post COVID recovery:** Relevance in Post-COVID Recovery: Provides a framework for green recovery, addressing growing inequalities and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- **Long Term Impact:** Aims for inclusive, sustainable, and transparent development with a focus on vulnerable groups and environmental justice.

Similarly, the project includes targeted interventions to address specific environmental challenges while empowering vulnerable groups with knowledge and information. These efforts aim to build stronger, more resilient institutions that support civil society participation grounded in democratic values and principles. The following interventions are informed by a thorough context analysis and needs assessment:

- Offers solutions to critical environmental challenges
- Empowers vulnerable groups
- Reinforces democratic principles, and supports the development of responsive public policies
- Confronts environmental threats, including the unsustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity loss, land degradation, climate.
- Foster synergies, share information and best practices
- Build capacities and resources at local, national, and regional levels
- Promotes policy coherence, coordination, and transparent, multi-level decision-making to support sustainable development strategies

## Project Activities

The project has outlined a series of activities designed to achieve the expected outputs and fulfill its objectives. These activities include:

- Seminars, training, Identification of needs, priorities and opportunities
- Update regional assessments, needs and good practices. Capacities to meet the Escazú Agreement;
- Enhance the Observatory on Principle 10, support awareness-raising and capacity-building
- Prepare educational materials to access rights and the Escazú Agreement
- Deliver an e-learning course on the Regional Agreement to raise awareness
- Prepare implementation materials in different languages.
- Deliver participatory capacity-building workshops
- Organize meetings with relevant stakeholders
- Technical advisory missions as and when required

## Project Outputs

As a result of the execution of the activities planned in the Project Document, the four Progress Reports reviewed (from 2021 to 2024) confirm that all project outputs have been fully



accomplished. The reports present a number of outputs, summarized in the next table and classified according to the three periods.

**TABLE 1. PROJECT OUTPUTS ACCOMPLISHED**

<b>PROGRESS REPORT 1</b>	
<b>OC1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft implementation guide was finalized. National capacity assessments on environmental information were undertaken in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia.</li> <li>Initial discussions also took place with Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.</li> <li>In Argentina, Belize, Mexico and Uruguay national activities were organized and strategies to support the development of national implementation plans are being explored.</li> </ul>
<b>OC2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation materials developed, i.e., illustrations</li> <li>Observatory on Principle 10 enhanced with a new layout, updated substantive content and resources, including graphs and maps.</li> </ul>
<b>OTHER ACTIONS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deposit of the instruments of ratification of Argentina and Mexico on 22 January 2021, the Escazú Agreement entered into force on 22 April 2021.</li> <li>The Agreement has 12 Parties and 24 signatory countries.</li> </ul>
<b>PROGRESS REPORT 2</b>	
<b>OC1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National capacity assessments on environmental information in Eastern Caribbean countries to encompass all OECS independent Member States</li> <li>National workshops and analyses in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.</li> <li>A roadmap for the development of national implementation plans was prepared in Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.</li> <li>Additional resources obtained to include Argentina and Chile</li> <li>In Colombia and Honduras national activities organized to strengthen access.</li> </ul>
<b>OC2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Conference of the Parties held in Santiago for capacity building activities</li> <li>The first Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters was held in Quito, Ecuador.</li> <li>Capacity building activities on article 9 of the Agreement were delivered through 10 working tables.</li> <li>Agreement now has 13 Parties and 24 signatory countries.</li> </ul>
<b>OTHER ACTIONS</b>	
	Chile deposited its instrument of accession and Colombia gave parliamentary approval to ratification in October 2022.
<b>PROGRESS REPORT 3</b>	
<b>OC1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The roadmaps for Ecuador and Argentina were finalized</li> <li>Actions towards national capacity assessments on environmental information in Eastern Caribbean countries to encompass all OECS</li> <li>the Observatory on Principle 10 upgrade in its operative system and interphase, passing from Drupal 7 to 9.</li> <li>The Observatory's content and resources were strengthened, with information on biodiversity and related matters, such as forestry, ecosystems, protected, coastal and marine areas and wildlife laws and policies.</li> </ul>
<b>OTHER ACTIONS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In terms of the Escazú Agreement's membership, Belize and Grenada deposited their instruments of ratification.</li> <li>The Agreement currently has 15 Parties and 24 signatory countries.</li> </ul>
<b>PROGRESS REPORT 4</b>	
<b>OC1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision on National Implementation of the Third Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement and session</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation guide in Portuguese</li> <li>▪ ECLAC/UNESCO assessment on case law on access to environmental information in LAC.</li> <li>▪ Metrics of the Observatory on Principle 10 in LAC (December 2023-January 2025)</li> <li>▪ Updated infographic on biodiversity and the Escazú Agreement</li> </ul>
<b>OC2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roadmap for the implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Saint Lucia and examples of implementation measures</li> <li>▪ Roadmap for the implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Ecuador and examples of implementation measures</li> <li>▪ E-learning course on SDG16 and the Escazú Agreement</li> <li>▪ National workshop in Belize, Uruguay</li> <li>▪ Caribbean “Seminar for Public Officials from the CARICOM region”</li> </ul>

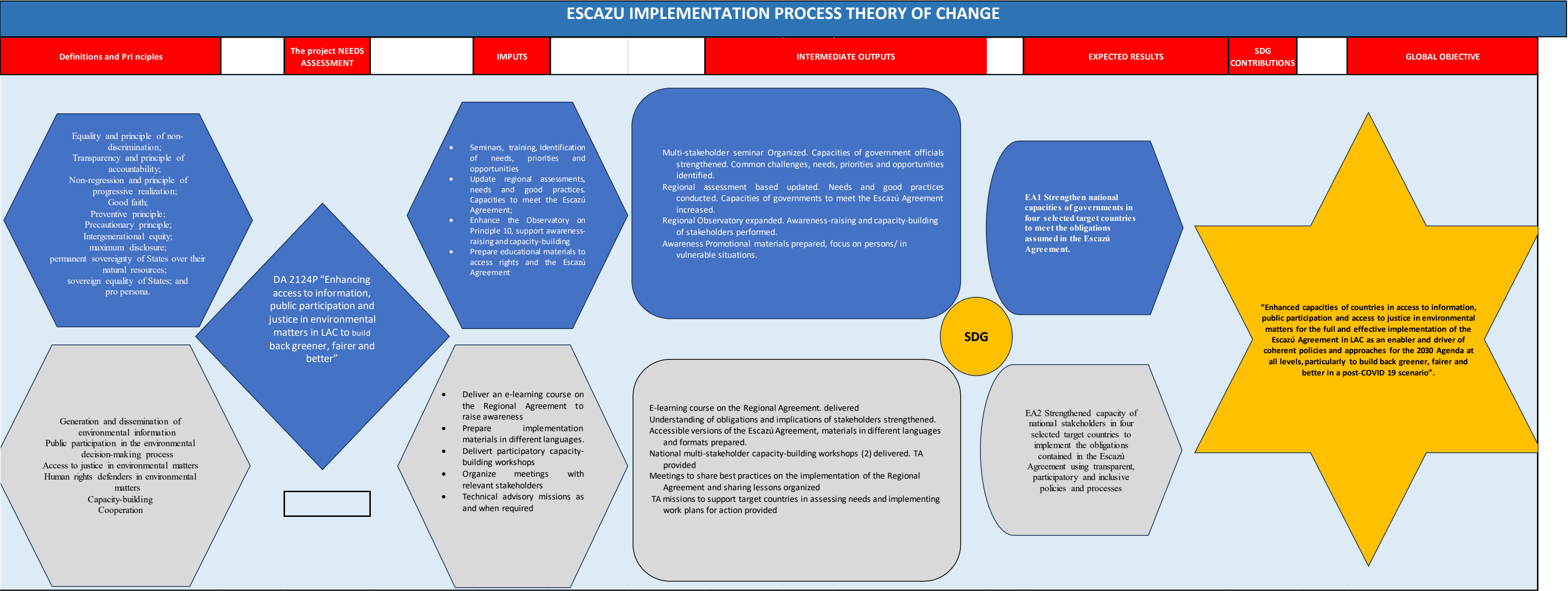
## **Complete Achievements of the Expected Outcomes.**

The project successfully strengthened national capacities in access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters, ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement in target countries. Both expected outcomes were achieved: (O1) enhancing the capacities of governments in four selected countries to fulfill their commitments under the Escazú Agreement, and (O2) strengthening national stakeholders’ ability to implement these obligations through transparent, participatory, and inclusive policies and processes.

Over the first three and a half years of implementation, significant progress was made, with activities effectively contributing to the achievement of these objectives. The final analysis provides strong evidence that the project achieved its objective in four selected target countries, along with others actively engaged in project activities. Additionally, national stakeholders have demonstrated an increased ability to implement the Agreement’s provisions, supported by enhanced institutional frameworks and governance mechanisms.

A detailed assessment of each result, including the verification of outputs, is presented under the evaluation criteria of effectiveness and efficiency, demonstrating the project’s success in fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and rights-based approach to environmental governance across the region.

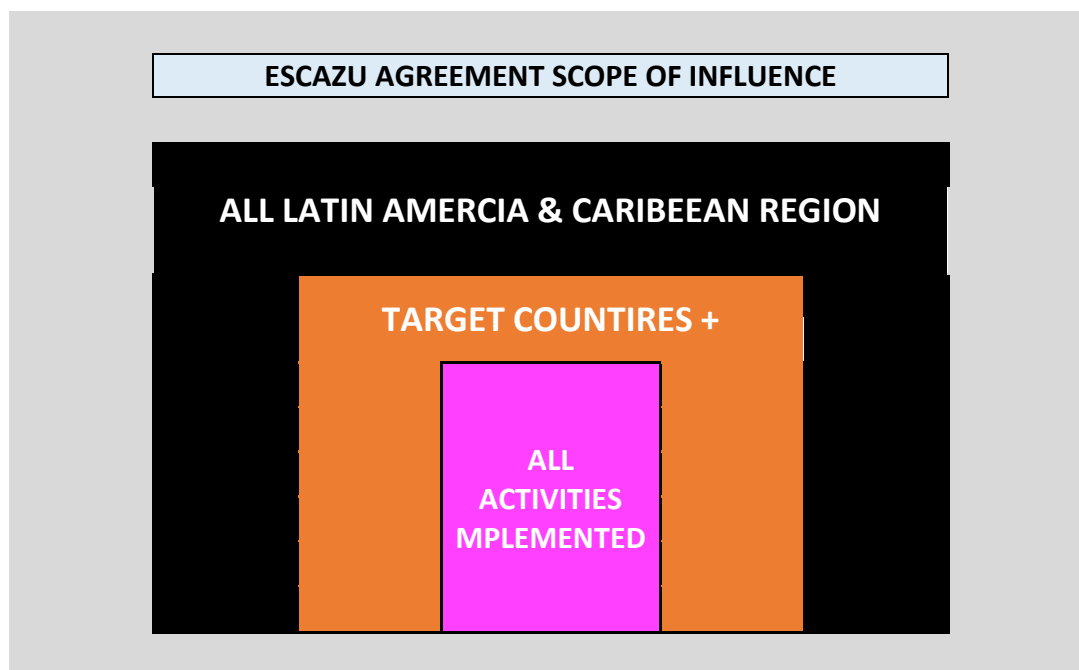
The ToC used for this assessment is visualized as a flowchart and as a diagram to simplify the relationships and its connectivity between all components of the project, making the process more transparent.



## 2.4 Target countries and beneficiaries

Although this project was designed to benefit the entire Latin American and Caribbean region, it adopted a dual approach that combined regional-level activities with targeted national interventions. The regional component focused on fostering cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building across multiple countries, while the national-level activities allowed for an in-depth examination of country-specific challenges and opportunities in implementing the Escazú Agreement's core principles—access to environmental information, public participation, and access to justice.

FIGURE 1. TARGET COUNTRIES AND BENEFICIARIES



To ensure a strategic and impactful approach, the project originally explored four focus countries—Uruguay, Ecuador, Mexico, and Saint Lucia—as case studies and potential regional models. Given some delays in Uruguay and Mexico during project implementation, two other countries (Argentina and Chile) were also considered. As a result, the final target countries are Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Saint Lucia. These countries were chosen based on several factors, including their commitment to the Agreement, national demand for technical assistance, institutional readiness, and potential for influencing broader regional efforts. By concentrating efforts on these countries, the project aimed to generate valuable insights, best practices, and replicable models that could inform policy development and implementation across the region.

The Implementing Unit also adopted a *prioritization strategy* to guide the development of national implementation roadmaps, providing a structured path toward the full realization of the Escazú Agreement. The project exceeded its original target of supporting four countries and successfully

laid the groundwork for two additional national roadmaps, demonstrating strong demand and regional momentum. Implementation highlights include:

- **Multi-stakeholder consultations** held in each participating country, fostering inclusive dialogue and aligning roadmaps with national priorities and local contexts.
- **Tailored technical assistance** delivered to institutions and civil society actors, including legal reviews, policy gap assessments, and the co-design of implementation tools.
- **Capacity-building workshops and peer-learning exchanges**, promoting knowledge sharing across countries and strengthening regional cooperation.
- **Integration of Escazú principles** into national policies and institutional frameworks, particularly in areas related to access to environmental information and public participation.
- **Strengthened collaboration** between government entities, civil society, and other stakeholders, contributing to a more coherent and participatory environmental governance landscape.

The highlights in each participating country were the following:

- **Ecuador** was the first to finalize its roadmap (April 2023), benefiting from early engagement and serving as the pilot for ECLAC's 7-step methodology.
- **Argentina** completed its plan in November 2023, supported through a partnership with the World Bank and aligned with the hosting of COP2.
- **Saint Lucia** became the first Caribbean country to adopt a roadmap (April 2024), supported by the OECS and recognized for its regional leadership.
- **Chile** finalized its plan in September 2024 with support from ECLAC, the World Bank, and UNEP.
- **Uruguay**, although initially a target country, published its roadmap in October 2024 following intergovernmental consultations and delays linked to the electoral calendar.
- **Belize** and **Mexico** made significant progress toward completing their national plans, which are expected to be finalized in 2025, following national elections and additional consultations.

Additionally, as implementation progressed, more countries became actively engaged and it became an item under the COP agenda, with a decision adopted on the matter at COP3, demonstrating significant interest and participation in project activities, further expanding the project's reach and impact.

## 2.5 Key partners and other key stakeholders

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The Escazú Agreement consistently upholds democratic principles, emphasizing broad participation from governments, institutions, and the general population. It also clearly defines and outlines the responsibilities of each party involved in the Agreement.

It is mentioned in the Project Document, that the main stakeholders are supposed to be regional, sub regional (OECS) and national governments, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and regional/multilateral organizations, in line with national priorities and contexts. A level of participation is attached to each participant group (from "high to low")

FIGURE 2. STAKEHOLDERS OF THE PROJECT



More specifically and in relation to this evaluation the Escazú Agreement, it reads:

Article 2:

(d) “Public” means one or more natural or legal persons and the associations organizations or groups established by those persons, that are nationals or that are subject to the national jurisdiction of the State Party;

(e) “Persons or groups in vulnerable situations” means those persons or groups that face particular difficulties in fully exercising the access rights recognized in the present Agreement, because of circumstances or conditions identified within each Party’s national context and in accordance with its international obligations.

Article 7

Public participation in the environmental decision-making process:

1. Each Party shall ensure the public’s right to participation and, for that purpose, commits to implement open and inclusive participation in environmental decision-making processes based on domestic and international normative frameworks.

2. Each Party shall guarantee mechanisms for the participation of the public in decision-making processes, revisions, re-examinations or updates with respect to projects and activities, and in other processes for granting environmental permits that have or may have a significant impact on the environment, including when they may affect health.

The identification and participation of the beneficiaries has taken place throughout the implementation period and it is described in the Project reports produced by management at ECLAC.

In the strengthening of national capacities of governments in the region to meet the obligations assumed in the Escazú Agreement, activities were organized in countries like Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Argentina, Belize, Mexico and Uruguay, among others.

At the level of “other” international organizations the OECS, OHCHR, UNDP, UNEP, and GIZ have participated in more than one activity and provided additional funding to meet some additional or complementary interventions.

In the second year of implementation a few countries were added (Argentina and Chile) and the World Bank, French Cooperation and the Ford Foundation have also participated and contributed with additional funding.

### **Stakeholders’ participation**

The level of stakeholder participation in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement has been notably high, as confirmed by data provided by ECLAC and additional estimates made by this evaluation. The project successfully engaged a diverse and representative group of stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations (CSOs), and academic institutions.

- **Government representatives** from both target countries (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, and Saint Lucia) and other actively involved nations (such as Belize, Mexico and Uruguay) played a crucial role in advancing institutional commitments, policy reforms, and legislative frameworks to align with the Agreement’s principles. Their participation helped ensure that national policies and legal frameworks reflect the objectives of the Escazú Agreement.
- **Civil society organizations (CSOs)**, including environmental advocacy groups, indigenous organizations, and grassroots movements, contributed critical perspectives on environmental justice, transparency, and public participation. Their engagement was essential in amplifying community concerns, monitoring implementation progress, and advocating for stronger enforcement mechanisms.
- Moreover, the **academic sector**, represented by university professors and researchers, provided technical expertise, research-based insights, and policy recommendations that helped guide implementation strategies. These contributions were particularly valuable in assessing environmental governance challenges, evaluating public participation mechanisms, and promoting evidence-based policymaking.

The broad and inclusive stakeholder participation not only strengthened the legitimacy and impact of the project but also enhanced knowledge-sharing, fostered regional collaboration, and reinforced long-term sustainability of the project’s outcomes.

A detail analysis about stakeholders' participation is elaborated in the Efficiency and Effectiveness chapters of this evaluation.

## 2.6 Resources

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The project budget is funded through approved DA (Development Account), which served as the core financial resource for executing planned activities. This budget was strategically allocated to cover key areas, including capacity-building initiatives, stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and policy development to enhance access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.

In addition to DA funding, the project benefited from other human, financial, and in-kind contributions, which significantly expanded its reach and effectiveness. These contributions included:

1. **Extra-budgetary (XB) Contributions:** Various donor agencies, international organizations, and partner institutions provided additional financial support to complement DA funding. These funds were used to enhance specific interventions, such as regional dialogues, workshops, and legal assessments, ensuring a broader and more impactful implementation.
2. **Regular Program for Technical Cooperation (RPTC):** The project leveraged resources from RPTC to support **technical cooperation activities**, including expert consultations, knowledge-sharing platforms, and country-specific advisory services. These funds facilitated tailored interventions to address national implementation challenges.
3. **In-Kind Contributions:** Several government agencies, civil society organizations, and academic institutions contributed by offering human resources, logistical support, and technical expertise. Examples of in-kind contributions included meeting spaces, research materials, translation services, and personnel time, which helped reduce operational costs while maximizing impact.
4. **Mobilized Resources from Implementing Entities:** ECLAC and other regional partners played a key role in mobilizing additional financial and technical resources to strengthen project implementation. These entities provided institutional support, coordination mechanisms, and strategic guidance, ensuring that the project aligned with regional priorities and sustainability goals.

Overall, the combination of DA funding and additional financial and in-kind contributions enabled the project to expand its scope, enhance implementation efficiency, and achieve significant progress in strengthening the capacities of target countries and stakeholders to fulfill their commitments under the Escazú Agreement.

The following tables summarize the contributions made by other donors and international organizations. Under the Efficiency and Effectiveness chapters of this evaluation a detail assessment is presented.



TABLE 2. IMPLEMENTATION RATE PLANNED &amp; ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

## Planned &amp; Actual Expenditure and Implementation Rate: 2021 - 2024

		2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
PLANNED	Planned expenditure	162,25	227,15	227,15	32,45	649,000
	Implementation rate	25%	60%	95%	100%	100%
ACTUAL	Actual expenditure	77,049	111,534	280,917	171,632	641,132
	Implementation rate	12%	29%	72%	99%	99%

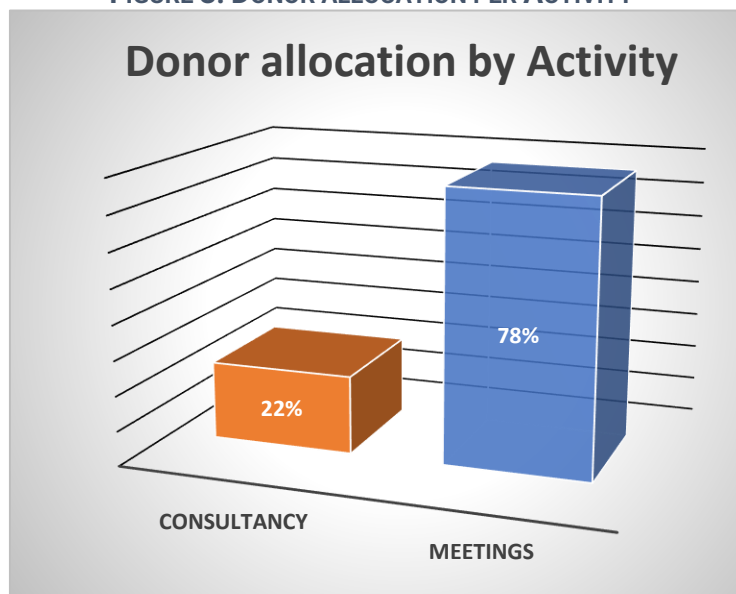
TABLE 3. ECLAC AVAILABLE BUDGET &amp; DONORS CONTRIBUTION

Contribution modality by donors		
In cash	362.400	80%
In kind	92.000	20%
Total donor contribution	454.400	100%

Total available budget		
SOURCE	USD	%
ECLAC	649.000	59%
DONOR	454.400	41%
Total available budget	1.103.400	100%

Source: Progress Report Nov 2024

FIGURE 3. DONOR ALLOCATION PER ACTIVITY



## 2.7 Link to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Both the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Project Document align the project's contributions with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), anticipating that the expected changes will occur in the medium to long term, or potentially by 2030. This evaluation has found lineages between the activities developed and the SDGs.

The Escazú Agreement aligns closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), as well as SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). The Escazú Project, supporting the Agreement's implementation, advances these goals by promoting environmental democracy, access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters.

#### Alignment with SDG 16:

- **Target 16.3 (Rule of Law & Access to Justice)** → The Escazú Agreement enhances legal frameworks and institutional capacity for environmental justice, ensuring people, especially vulnerable groups, can seek remedies for environmental harm.
- **Target 16.6 (Effective, Accountable Institutions)** → Strengthens transparency and good governance by requiring governments to provide accessible environmental information and engage the public in decision-making.
- **Target 16.7 (Inclusive & Participatory Decision-Making)** → Mandates public participation in environmental matters, particularly for marginalized communities, indigenous peoples, and civil society groups.
- **Target 16.10 (Public Access to Information & Fundamental Freedoms)** → Guarantees access to environmental information, empowering citizens to advocate for sustainable policies and hold governments accountable.

#### Additional SDG Contributions:

- **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** → Ensures public participation in climate policies, helping communities adapt and mitigate climate change.
- **SDG 15 (Life on Land)** → Strengthens legal protections for biodiversity, ecosystems, and land defenders.
- **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)** → Prioritizes vulnerable communities, indigenous groups, and environmental defenders, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making.

By reinforcing these SDGs, the **Escazú Project** contributes to building stronger institutions, fostering inclusive governance, and ensuring environmental sustainability across Latin America and the Caribbean.

## 2.8 Innovative elements

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The Escazú Project, funded under the Development Account (DA), introduced innovative methodologies and new approaches to support the implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project leveraged multi-stakeholder participation, digital transformation, and inclusive policy design to strengthen access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.

## △ Key Innovative Approaches and Methodologies

### 1. Multi-Stakeholder and Participatory Methodology

The project adopted a bottom-up, participatory approach that engaged government institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and private sector representatives in shaping policies and mechanisms for implementing the Escazú Agreement. This approach emphasized:

- **Co-creation of policies** through consultations with diverse actors.
- **Participatory legal and institutional assessments** to identify national gaps and opportunities.
- **Capacity-building programs** tailored to different stakeholder needs, ensuring an inclusive process.

### 2. Data-Driven Policy Development

The project introduced **evidence-based decision-making** by integrating **data collection, environmental indicators, and legal analysis** to develop actionable recommendations. This included:

- Conducting **national baseline studies** to assess current legal frameworks and institutional capacities.
- Developing **regional comparative analyses** to identify best practices and scalable solutions.
- Using **case study methodologies** to analyze successful environmental governance models.

### 3. Digital Tools for Enhanced Access to Environmental Information

Recognizing the role of technology in improving environmental governance, the project leveraged **digital solutions** to promote **transparency and public participation**:

- Establishing **open-access online platforms** to facilitate access to environmental data.
- Promoting **geo-referenced tools and interactive dashboards** for monitoring environmental impact.
- Enhancing the use of **e-government platforms** for environmental information dissemination.

### 4. Adaptive Learning and Knowledge Sharing

The project piloted **adaptive learning techniques** to continuously refine methodologies based on stakeholder feedback and real-time implementation challenges. Key strategies included:

- Organizing **regional knowledge-exchange forums** to foster South-South cooperation.
- Developing **training modules and toolkits** that could be adapted for different national contexts.
- Facilitating **peer-learning networks** among policymakers, CSOs, and environmental defenders.

## 5. Legal and Institutional Innovation

The project tested **new legal and institutional mechanisms** to strengthen national compliance with the Escazú Agreement by:

- Encouraging the development of **National Action Plans (NAPs)** for transparency and accountability.
- Supporting the establishment of **ombudsman mechanisms and specialized environmental courts**<sup>5</sup>.
- Integrating **gender-sensitive and indigenous participation frameworks** into environmental governance structures.

### △ Scaling and Replication Potential

The project demonstrated how **innovative legal, institutional, and technological approaches** can be **scaled and adapted across the region**. Successful elements of the project—such as digital transparency tools, participatory governance models, and legal harmonization frameworks—can serve as **regional benchmarks** for other Latin American and Caribbean countries implementing the Escazú Agreement.

By **testing and refining these methodologies**, the Escazú Project contributed to **developing a replicable model** that strengthens environmental democracy and governance, aligning with global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.

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<sup>5</sup> This mechanism was highlighted by interviews in Peru, Uruguay, Chile and Mexico.

## 3. Evaluation objectives, scope and questions

### 3.1 Purpose and objectives

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This end-of-cycle assessment, as outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR), evaluates the effectiveness and contributions of a project designed to strengthen national capacities in access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters. The project's ultimate goal is to support the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement across Latin America and the Caribbean, positioning it as a key driver of coherent policies and approaches aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

By enhancing transparency, inclusivity, and legal frameworks, the project has contributed to fostering a more participatory and rights-based approach to environmental governance. This is particularly relevant in the context of post-COVID-19 recovery, where building back greener, fairer, and better remains a pressing regional priority. The assessment examines how the project has facilitated policy coherence, intergovernmental coordination, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that environmental decision-making processes align with sustainable development objectives and the protection of environmental human rights.

#### Objective of the Assessment

The objective of this assessment is to review the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and sustainability of the project implementation and more particularly document the results the project attained in relation to its overall objectives and expected results as defined in the project document.

### 3.2 Evaluation scope, criteria and questions

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The assessment, as outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR) and aligned with its objectives, has comprehensively reviewed all activities implemented under the project. Additionally, it has examined cases beyond the designated target countries to evaluate the project's broader influence on policy development and the implementation of Escazú Agreement mandates. The evaluation has focused on assessing achievements, challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned, as well as the overall quality of interventions within the evolving cooperation policy landscape. Emphasis has been placed on result-oriented approaches and the project's contribution to the implementation of the Escazu Agreement.

## 4. Methodology

### A. Evaluation Questions

The evaluation has adopted a results-oriented approach to assess the achievements attributable to Project support in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. It is structured around evaluation questions derived from the indicative list provided in the Terms of Reference (ToR) and applies the four standard OECD DAC evaluation criteria:

### 1. **Relevance:**

- How well does the project align with the priorities and needs of the region, particularly in supporting the implementation of the Escazú Agreement?
- How effectively has the project responded to emerging regional challenges, including political shifts and climate change?

### 2. **Efficiency:**

- How efficiently were resources (financial, human, and technical) used to implement the project's activities?
- Were the project's outputs delivered on time and within budget?
- How effective were the coordination mechanisms among ECLAC, implementing partners, and stakeholders?

### 3. **Effectiveness:**

- To what extent has the project achieved its intended outcomes, particularly in strengthening national capacities for access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters?
- What key factors have contributed to or hindered the effectiveness of the project?
- How successful was the project in fostering regional cooperation and capacity-building among target countries?

### 4. **Sustainability:**

- How likely is it that the project's results will be sustained beyond its funding cycle?
- What measures have been put in place to ensure long-term institutional strengthening and national ownership of the Escazú Agreement's implementation?
- How can future initiatives build on the project's achievements to ensure ongoing support for environmental governance in the region?

## **Cross-Cutting Issues and Thematic Considerations**

Beyond these criteria, the evaluation has also examined key cross-cutting issues essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive environmental governance:

#### **Gender Transformation:**

- How has the project integrated gender considerations in its approach?
- Has it contributed to greater participation of women and gender-diverse groups in environmental decision-making?

#### **Vulnerable Sectors and Inclusivity**

- How has the project addressed the specific needs of marginalized communities, including indigenous peoples, rural populations, and youth?
- To what extent has it supported policies that promote environmental justice for these groups?

◆ **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience:**

- How has the project contributed to strengthening national and regional capacities for climate action?
- What role has it played in ensuring long-term environmental sustainability in line with global climate commitments?

◆ **Civil Society Engagement and Public Participation:**

- How effectively has the project involved civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other non-state actors?
- Has it strengthened transparency and access to environmental information for the public?

**B. Data Collection and Analysis**

Key insights and perspectives have been gathered through a **mixed-method approach**, including:

- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Conducted with Member States, project beneficiaries, civil society organizations, and technical experts.
- **Surveys:** Designed to assess stakeholder engagement, project impact, and perceived challenges.
- **Desk Review:** Analysis of project reports, national policies, and other relevant documentation to validate findings.
- **Case Studies:** Review of specific country-level interventions and best practices for scaling up successful models.

By employing this comprehensive evaluation framework, the assessment has provided evidence-based recommendations for enhancing the impact, sustainability, and scalability of future initiatives supporting the Escazú Agreement.

**C. Implementation of operational instruments.**

See annex 2.

## 5. Findings

The evaluation finds that the **implementation of the project was largely successful** in advancing access to environmental information, public participation, and justice in Latin America and the Caribbean. While challenges remain—particularly in terms of political will, institutional capacity, and sustainability—the project provided **valuable contributions to strengthening environmental governance and legal frameworks** across the region.

The assessment of ECLAC's intervention in supporting the implementation of the Escazú Agreement has yielded the following key findings, which are summarized below and supported by a global evaluation framework and methodology:

**TABLE 4. KEY FINDINGS AND CRITERIA SCORE**

Criteria	Justification	Score
<b>Relevance:</b>	The project demonstrated a strong alignment with the objectives and principles of the Escazú Agreement, including access to environmental information, public participation, and environmental justice. ECLAC's strategic support to government institutions directly responded to the needs expressed by member states and aligned with regional and international mandates, including the 2030 Agenda and the Rio Declaration. The project also integrated cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender, and environmental sustainability, enhancing its relevance.	5/5
<b>Methodological basis:</b>	The high score is substantiated by consistent findings across interviews, country references consultations, and document reviews, which confirm that stakeholders recognized the project's contributions to national and regional priorities.	
<b>Efficiency:</b>	While the project was implemented with a modest budget and applied cost-effective approaches in strategic areas such as capacity-building and regional coordination, opportunities to broaden engagement—particularly with civil society actors, the private sector, and academic institutions—remained limited. These constraints affected the timely execution of specific components and limited the depth and breadth of stakeholder engagement necessary for comprehensive implementation.	3.5/5
<b>Methodological basis:</b>	Efficiency was assessed through financial documentation, stakeholder interviews, and activity reports. Mixed performance in resource utilization and operational delays led to a moderate rating.	
<b>Effectiveness:</b>	The project effectively contributed to institutional strengthening, policy dialogue, and capacity development in target countries.	3.5/5
<b>Methodological basis:</b>	Triangulation of outputs reported, survey responses, and qualitative evidence from stakeholders revealed significant progress in some areas, but uneven achievements across countries and themes.	



<b>Sustainability:</b>	The long-term sustainability of the project's results remains uncertain due to high dependence on political will and limited national resources. While capacities were built, institutionalization of the Escazú principles varies significantly across countries, and no formal sustainability mechanisms (e.g., national budget lines or follow-up strategies) were embedded in most cases.	2/5
<b>Methodological basis:</b>	Sustainability assessments drew on interviews with national actors and analysis of post-project planning documents. Weak institutional anchoring and the absence of long-term commitments (i.e., financial provisions) justified a low rating.	
<b>Coherence</b>	The project maintained a coherent and coordinated approach, both internally within ECLAC and externally with national governments and regional organizations. Activities were well aligned with other UN initiatives and partner programs, though opportunities for stronger synergies with the private sector and grassroots organizations were not fully realized.	4/5
<b>Methodological basis:</b>	Evidence from stakeholder mapping, interviews, and partner consultations showed strong vertical (global to national) and horizontal (interagency) alignment, albeit with room for improvement in inclusivity.	
<b>Source: rating prepared based on documents review, interviews and answer to EQs, and survey.</b>		

The scoring reflects a balanced and evidence-based assessment of project's performance in implementing the Escazú Agreement. The methodology incorporated diverse data sources, stakeholder perspectives, and a transparent rating process that aligns with global evaluation standards. This structured framework allows for comparability, replicability, and targeted recommendations to improve future project design and implementation.

## Contribution Analysis

The implementation of the Escazú Agreement has directly benefited several countries, including Uruguay, Saint Lucia, Chile, Belize and Argentina, as well as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) as a subregional entity<sup>6</sup>. To date, 17 countries have ratified the agreement, while several others are in the process of ratification. Key achievements include the incorporation of supporting norms and regulations into national environmental and human rights policies, as well as the establishment of solid institutional structures to implement and monitor the agreement. For example, Chile, Uruguay and Argentina have significantly strengthened their institutional capacities to align with Escazu's provisions.

<sup>6</sup> Documents reveal concentration of activities and results in these countries



However, contributions have been uneven across sectors. While governments have benefited from enhanced institutional frameworks, civil society organizations (CSOs) have experienced limited engagement. The educational sector has seen minimal involvement, and the business sector (e.g., trade unions, small-scale cross-border trade, women's business associations, youth working groups, etc.) has been largely unaffected. The project's strategic focus on governments has yielded positive results, but the harmonization of documents and procedures at regional and local levels remains incomplete.

Additionally, the project has aimed to facilitate policy coordination and cooperation in government sectors mostly, and less attention was given to productive sectors, to address gender and social barriers, and to promote the participation of women and youth. It has also focused on building the institutional and human capacity of the Secretariat, member states, and other institutions to foster regional economic transformation and sustainable development.

## Key Findings: Challenges and Achievements

- 1. Political and Institutional Challenges:** The project has faced a complex political and institutional environment, particularly in Latin America, where implementation efforts have been affected by Government transitions and policy shifts in some countries. For example, changes in governments and focal points delayed project implementation, but still the project was able to maintain activities in planned countries like Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay.
- 2. Legal and Institutional Variability:** The diverse legal frameworks across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have added a challenge to implementation efforts. Each country's unique legal, regulatory, and judicial structures, coupled with varying levels of institutional capacity and budgets, have created challenges for ECLAC. A more uniform legal and institutional landscape would have facilitated smoother implementation.
- 3. Resource Limitations and Strategic Targeting:** ECLAC's resources have been insufficient to cover the vast geographic and environmental scope of the project. Prioritizing four target countries (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, and Saint Lucia) was a strategic decision that allowed for focused and effective interventions.
- 4. Additional engagement required to include the broader public and Local Governments:** Despite progress, the project needs to continue broad engagement with all the public, including academia, and the private sector. Awareness and implementation at the local government level remain limited, highlighting a gap in grassroots engagement
- 5. Political Dialogue and Cooperation:** Political dialogue has been central to promoting ratification and implementation. The project has fostered cooperation agreements and secured co-financing from national and multilateral organizations, demonstrating the importance of political will over structural changes.
- 6. Effective Secretariat Execution:** The Secretariat has successfully aligned its activities with national environmental and human rights policies, generating economic and strategic benefits for member states. ECLAC's contributions, particularly in developing guidelines and methodologies, have been critical in supporting national efforts to operationalize the agreement.
- 7. Institutional Strengthening and Networks:** Implementation capacity has evolved significantly in countries like Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. A well-structured Secretariat, supported by ECLAC focal points, coordinating ministries, and national committees, has been instrumental in achieving key results.
- 8. Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement:** ECLAC has provided valuable technical assistance to policymakers and maintained networks with the private sector and civil society. However, civil society organizations have expressed concerns about their limited involvement in political and coordination dialogues.
- 9. Key Achievements and Areas for Improvement:** The project has achieved significant results in technical assistance, guideline development, and forum participation. However,

civil society engagement remains a critical area for improvement, with many organizations expressing dissatisfaction with their level of involvement.

As a main finding shows that ECLAC's implementation of the project has made significant strides in strengthening government institutions and aligning national policies with the agreement's objectives. However, challenges remain in terms of resource allocation, broad public engagement, and sustainability. The project's contribution has been uneven, with governments benefiting more than civil society and other sectors. Moving forward, greater emphasis on inclusivity, resource mobilization, and political advocacy will be essential to ensure the long-term success of the Escazú Agreement in promoting environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## 5.1 Relevance

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The implementation of the project is widely regarded as highly relevant and appropriate by stakeholders, with its alignment to national environmental policies consistently acknowledged. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has played a pivotal role in facilitating and assessing the agreement's implementation, demonstrating its relevance through tangible contributions to environmental governance and human rights.

### 1. Alignment with Objectives

ECLAC's dual role as the Secretariat and Implementation Unit has been instrumental in executing the project at both political and operational levels. Its influence on national governments has been highly valued, particularly in fostering dialogue, strengthening coordination, and reaffirming commitments to environmental protection, legal access, and human rights. The implementation aligns with the Escazú Agreement's core objectives:

- **Access to Environmental Information:** the project has supported governments in establishing transparency mechanisms, ensuring public access to environmental data.
- **Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making:** Efforts have been made to promote inclusive participation, enabling civil society and indigenous communities to engage in policymaking.
- **Access to Justice in Environmental Matters:** the project interventions has advocated for legal frameworks that allow individuals and organizations to seek justice for environmental issues.
- **Protection of Environmental Defenders:** Measures have been implemented to safeguard activists from threats and violence.

### 2. Stakeholder Engagement

Documentation highlights project's contributions to stakeholder engagement and this has further confirmed the relevance of the Escazú Agreement. ECLAC has worked with a diverse range of stakeholders, including:

- **Governments:** Providing technical assistance and policy recommendations to align domestic laws with the agreement's mandates.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Partnering with NGOs to promote awareness and advocacy for environmental rights.

- **Indigenous and Local Communities:** Ensuring the inclusion of marginalized groups in decision-making processes.
- **Private Sector:** Encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices and comply with transparency requirements.
- **International Organizations:** Collaborating with UN bodies and environmental agencies to strengthen regional cooperation.

### 3. Political and Methodological Contributions

The negotiation and ratification process of the Escazú Agreement has resulted in a growing number of signatories and member states. However, challenges persist:

- **Ratification Status:** Despite increased participation of governments, with 24 signatories and 17 Parties, the membership of the agreement needs to increase to involve all 33 countries of the region. Non-Parties include Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru, for example
- **Political Debates:** In some countries, the agreement has sparked intense debates, reflecting strong engagement and the prioritization of project activities.
- **High Demand for Services:** The project's pertinence is evident in the high demand for technical assistance, expert mapping, priority formulation, and advisory support.

### 4. Key Project Contributions

ECLAC's methodological and operational contributions have been highly regarded, including:

- **Implementation Guide:** A comprehensive roadmap for governments to operationalize the agreement.
- **Roadmap for National Strategies:** Tailored strategies to support national implementation efforts.
- **Forums, Seminars, and Workshops:** Platforms for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.

The latest Implementation Report (FR4) documents positive feedback from multiple countries on ECLAC's leadership and execution of the project.

### 5. Major Milestones

- **First Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Escazú Agreement and First Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders (2022):** Marked a significant step in advancing the agreement's objectives.
- **Publication of the Escazú Implementation Guide:** Provided a practical tool for governments to interpret and implement the agreement.
- **Enhancement of the Observatory on Principle 10:** Strengthened regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

- **Provision of TA:** assisting governments in the data base formulation, gathering information, preparing road maps, mythological approaches

## 6. Challenges in Civil Society Engagement

Despite its overall relevance, the agreement's impact has been less evident among civil society organizations, academia, and economic associations. Key concerns include:

- **Limited Participation:** Civil society groups have had minimal involvement in key activities, such as the preparation of the Implementation Guide and the development of Roadmaps.
- **Resource Allocation:** Insufficient resources have been allocated to support diverse civil society groups, including women's organizations, minority groups, children, and the elderly.

## 7. Country-Specific Relevance Analysis

The document review presented by ECLAC, along with country-level information and stakeholder interviews, reinforced the perceived relevance of the Escazú Agreement's implementation process. Stakeholders from non-Party countries, such as Peru, acknowledged the country's limited participation in the Agreement while simultaneously emphasizing the alignment of national policies with the core principles of access to information, environmental rights, and human rights. Moreover, inputs from Peruvian stakeholders were considered on an equal footing with those from Party countries, allowing for a comparative analysis that highlighted contrasts, weaknesses, and strengths across different national contexts. That is way Peruvian opinions are validated in these sections.

**TABLE 5. ACHIEVEMENTS BY COUNTRY**

Argentina	
<b>Key Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hosted COP 2 in Buenos Aires (April 2023), leading to the election of the first seven members of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance.</li> <li>◆ Developed a National Action Plan (May–August 2023) with ECLAC support, enhancing governance and public participation.</li> <li>◆ Participated in COP 3 (April 2024), reporting on progress towards implementation of priority actions</li> </ul>
Ecuador	
<b>Key Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Development of a National Roadmap:</b> Ecuador prepared a country-specific roadmap for the implementation of the Escazú Agreement,</li> <li>◆ <b>Institutional Strengthening:</b> National institutions involved in environmental governance were engaged and supported in aligning national policy frameworks</li> <li>◆ <b>Regional Exchange and Visibility:</b> Ecuador actively participated in regional forums and Escazú COPs (Conference of the Parties), contributing to cross-country learning and reinforcing political commitment.</li> </ul>

<b>Saint Lucia</b>	
<b>Key Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Development of a National Roadmap:</b> Saint Lucia formulated a comprehensive roadmap to guide the implementation of the Escazú Agreement.</li> <li>◆ <b>Engagement with the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance (CSIC):</b> In April 2025, Saint Lucia hosted a visit from the CSIC, a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement.</li> <li>◆ <b>Promotion of Public Participation:</b> Saint Lucia has actively promoted citizen involvement in environmental decision-making processes, aligning with the Escazú Agreement's emphasis on public participation.</li> <li>◆ <b>Advocacy for Environmental Justice:</b> The government has demonstrated support for environmental conservation and justice, recognizing the rights of present and future generations to a healthy environment and sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<b>Chile</b>	
<b>Key Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ratified the Escazú Agreement in June 2022 under President Gabriel Boric.</li> <li>◆ Strengthened legal protections and institutional mechanisms to comply with Escazú.</li> <li>◆ Enhanced transparency and access to environmental information through digital platforms</li> <li>◆ Played an active role in regional discussions, influencing other nations to join the treaty</li> </ul>
<b>Uruguay</b>	
<b>Key Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Among the first countries to ratify the agreement in 2019, demonstrating a firm commitment to environmental governance.</li> <li>◆ Integrated Escazú into national frameworks, ensuring public access to environmental data.</li> <li>◆ Strengthened legal protections for environmental defenders and actively participates in regional cooperation.</li> </ul>
<b>Peru</b>	
<b>Key Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Signed the agreement in 2018 but has not ratified it due to misunderstanding and lack of awareness on the real scope and implications of the agreement by some political and business actors.</li> <li>◆ One of the most dangerous countries for environmental defenders, with weak legal protections.</li> <li>◆ Civil society organizations continue to advocate for ratification, citing the urgent need for stronger protections</li> </ul>
Source: Documents review and interviews performed. January 2025	

The ECLAC Secretariat and its Implementing Unit has been considered (and remains) a key instrument for advancing environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. While ECLAC's contributions have been widely recognized in governmental capacity-building, policy development, and legal frameworks, gaps in civil society engagement and national-level harmonization need to be addressed. Strengthening inclusivity, resource allocation, and political advocacy will be essential to ensure the agreement's long-term success.

## 5.2 Efficiency

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### △ Resource Utilization

The Escazú Agreement project was implemented by ECLAC's Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division. The core team consisted of four professionals: one Director overseeing political coordination and external relations, one operational manager responsible for planning, organizing, supervising, and reporting, and two assistants providing logistical and documentary support. External experts were contracted for specialized tasks, such as preparing guidelines and providing technical assistance.

The project officially began in January 2021 and concluded in June 2024, with remaining activities scheduled for early 2025. While the geographical scope covers all 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the primary focus was on four target countries: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, and Saint Lucia. However, other countries, including Belize, Grenada, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), also benefited directly from the project.

To enhance operational capacity, ECLAC mobilized Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) in target countries such as Argentina, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay. Stakeholders expressed high satisfaction with the implementing team, particularly praising their coordination, dialogue facilitation, and lobbying efforts for the agreement's ratification. The team's operational efficiency in planning, executing activities, and delivering outputs—such as organizing forums, preparing guidelines, and providing technical assistance—was also widely recognized.

However, some challenges were noted:

- **Need of continuing to increase the broad participation by the public:** More attention would be desirable to address the concerns of a varied audience, including indigenous communities, women, youth organizations, and business associations.
- **Administrative Bottlenecks:** Administrative procedures and consultation processes required additional time for implementation, particularly during the first two years of the project.

### △ Resource Management and Budget Allocation

A total budget of \$649,000 USD was allocated for the project over a 3.5- to 4-year period (2021 to June 2024). While modest for the project's extensive scope, the budget was strategically distributed across seven categories:

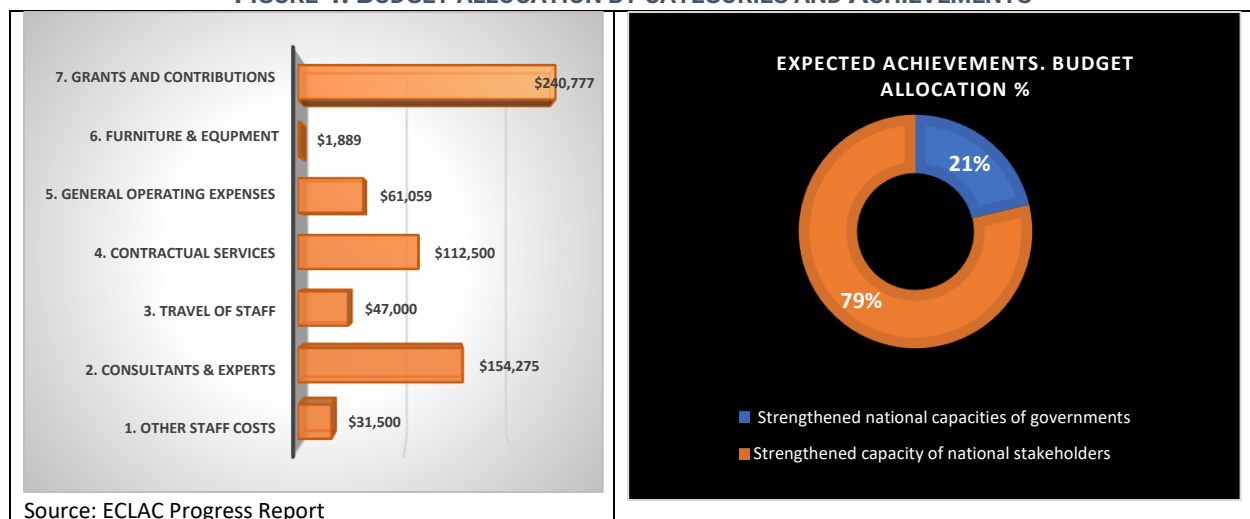


**TABLE 6. BUDGET LINE ALLOCATION**

Code	Budget Line	Available Budget	(%)
15	1. Other staff costs	\$31.500	5%
105	2. Consultants & Experts	\$154.275	24%
115	3. Travel of Staff	\$47.000	7%
120	4. Contractual services	\$112.500	17%
125	5. General operating expenses	\$61.059	9%
135	6. Furniture & equipment	\$1.889	0%
145	7. Grants and Contributions	\$240.777	37%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$649.000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Project Document ECLAC 2018\*

**FIGURE 4. BUDGET ALLOCATION BY CATEGORIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**



In addition, the budget was allocated according to two expected outcomes:

- i. **Strengthening the Capacity of National Stakeholders** (79% of the budget).
- ii. **Enhancing the Capacities of Governments** (21% of the budget).

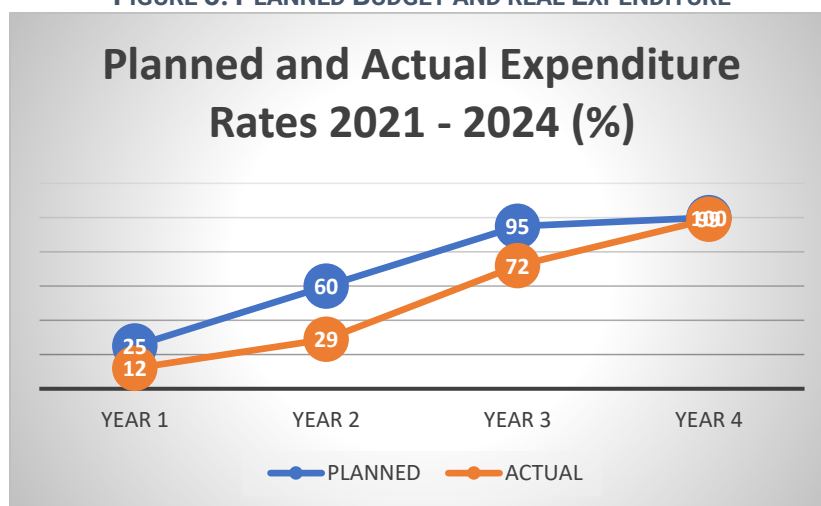
This distribution reflects the project's emphasis on democratizing environmental concerns and promoting public stewardship. The budget was fully utilized, with a 99% implementation rate. Expenditure was gradual in the first two years but accelerated in the third year, reaching full utilization by 2024.

#### △ **Planned Budget and Real Expenditure**

Real expenditure shows a limited deviation rate compare with plan activities reflecting the capacity to adjust deviation in the third and fourth years. The learning curve in the first two years is attributed to the preparation of the tools and instruments to be used in the execution of

activities and to the long consultation process in the decision making and in the coordination with governments and stakeholders. The below graph reflects this behavior in the allocation of funds.

FIGURE 5. PLANNED BUDGET AND REAL EXPENDITURE

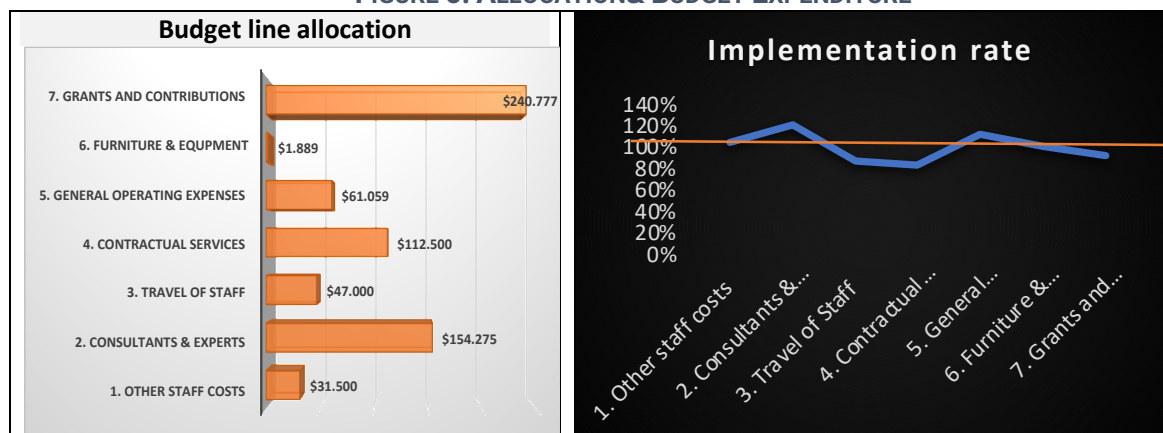


Source: ECLAC, financial reports.

TABLE 7. BUDGET, ACTUAL EXPENDITURE & IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Code	Budget Line	Available Budget	Total Expenditure	Balance	Implementation rate
15	1. Other staff costs	\$31,500	\$ 32,618,00	\$ 1,118,00	104%
105	2. Consultants & Experts	\$154,275	\$184,524,00	\$30,249,00	120%
115	3. Travel of Staff	\$47,000	\$ 40,797,00	\$ 6,203,00	87%
120	4. Contractual services	\$112,500	\$ 93,234,00	\$19,266,00	83%
125	5. General operating expenses	\$61,059	\$ 67,801,00	\$ 6,742,00	111%
135	6. Furniture & equipment	\$1,889	\$ 1,889,00	\$ -	100%
145	7. Grants and Contributions	\$240,777	\$220,266,00	\$20,511,00	91%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$649,000</b>	<b>\$641,129,00</b>	<b>\$ 7,871,00</b>	<b>99%%</b>

FIGURE 6. ALLOCATION & BUDGET EXPENDITURE



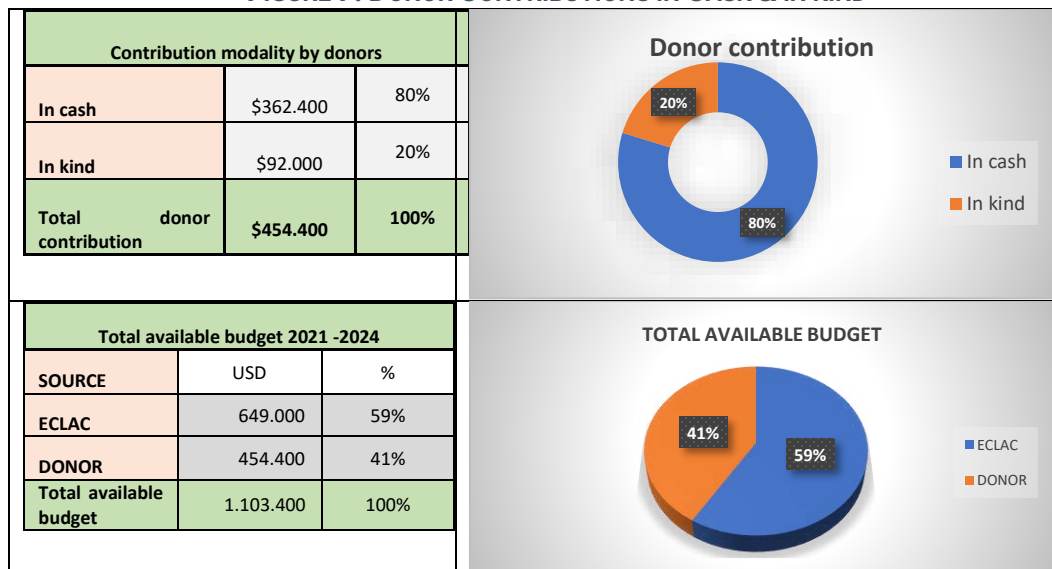
Source: ECLAC reports.

### △ Donor Contributions

ECLAC's implementation performance is widely recognized by stakeholders and international organizations working in related fields. The strong approval and confidence from the donor community are evident in their continued financial support, either by complementing existing initiatives or entrusting ECLAC's Management Unit with expanded responsibilities.

As illustrated in the graphs below, since the project's inception in early 2021, donor contributions have been instrumental in driving its progress. Funding has sustained activities through project completion in 2024, with ongoing commitments for key initiatives in 2025, such as the organization of **COP4 in Chile**. International donor contributions amount to **\$454,400**, provided in two forms: **80% in cash and 20% in-kind**, with budget estimates jointly determined by ECLAC management and donors.

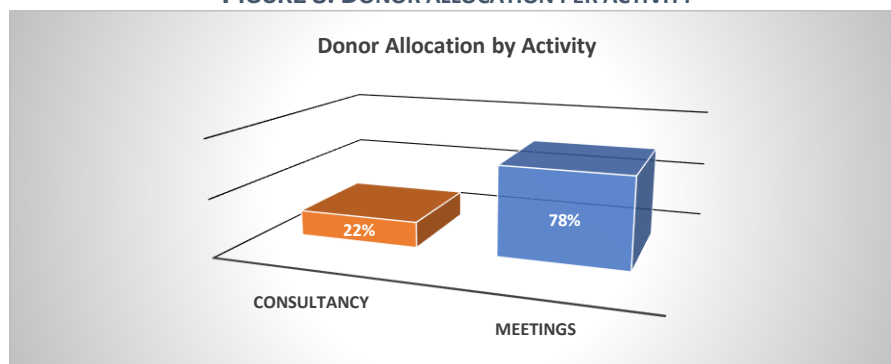
FIGURE 7. DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH & IN KIND



The total available budget, combining ECLAC and donor contributions, amounted to \$1,103,400 USD. Key partners included the governments of the region as well as organizations such as OECS, OHCHR, UN Women, UNEP, the World Bank, and the Ford Foundation.

Donors have focused their contributions in activities related to the organizations of meetings (78%), and in consultancies (22%).

**FIGURE 8. DONOR ALLOCATION PER ACTIVITY**



A breakdown of this allocation is presented in the following table.

**TABLE 8. DONOR CONTRIBUTION BY INSTITUTIONS AND ACTIVITY**

Source/Donor	Activity	Year	Amount raised		
			Cash (USD)	In-kind <sup>7</sup> (USD)	Activity
Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Saint Lucia, Uruguay	(OP 2.3) (OP 2.4)	2021-2024		USD 20.000	
OECS	(OC 1) - (OP 2.3)	2022-2023		USD 20.000	Meetings*
OHCHR	(OP 2.4)	2022-2024		USD 30.000	Meeting
UN Women	(OP 2.4)	2023		USD 10.000	Meeting
UNEP	(OP 1.3)	2022-2023	USD 6.700		Consultancy
	(OP 2.4)	2022-2023	USD 10.700		Meetings
RPTC	(OC 1) - (OP 2.3)	2021-2022	USD 30.000		Meetings
Ford Foundation	(OP 2.4)	2023	USD 100.000		Meetings
World Bank	(OP 2.3)	2022-2023	USD 50.000		Consultancies
	(OP 2.4)	2022-2023	USD 20.000		Meetings

<sup>7</sup> Estimated value: ECLAC, Donor.

French cooperation	(OP 2.4)	2023-2024	USD 100.000		Meetings
German cooperation	(OP 1.3)	2021-2024	USD 45.000		Consultancy
	(OP 2.4)	2023		USD 12.000	Meetings
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS USD			362.400	92.000	454.400

Source: Progress Report Nov 2024

\* = Meeting participants, experts, facilities and breaks (when hybrid)

## △ Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

Stakeholder participation in the Escazú project was notably high, particularly in target countries and OECS member states. Key activities included:

- **Conference of the Parties (COP) Meetings:**
- **First COP Meeting (April 2022):** Held in Santiago, Chile, marking a significant step in implementation.
- **Second COP Meeting (April 2023):** Hosted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, advancing dialogue on the agreement's objectives.
- **Third COP Meeting (April 2024):** Focused on adopting a "Plan of Action" for environmental human rights defenders.
- **Side Events at International Conferences:** Featured at COP26 (2021) and COP28 (2023), emphasizing the agreement's role in climate justice.
- **Dialogue Forums:** A June 2021 forum in Costa Rica highlighted the agreement's significance, particularly its provisions for protecting environmental defenders.

These events underscored the active engagement and ongoing efforts to promote the Escazú Agreement's principles across the region.

## △ Target Countries and Stakeholder Participation

The project initially targeted four countries—Uruguay, Ecuador, Mexico, and Saint Lucia—chosen for their potential as regional models. Selection was based on country demand, synergies with local and international partners, and feasibility within the project timeline. As implementation progressed, target countries were realigned to Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Saint Lucia, while work with additional countries was also undertaken (Uruguay, Belize, Mexico, Grenada and Panama).

**TABLE 9. STAKEHOLDERS (COUNTRIES) PARTICIPATION BY PROGRESS REPORT**

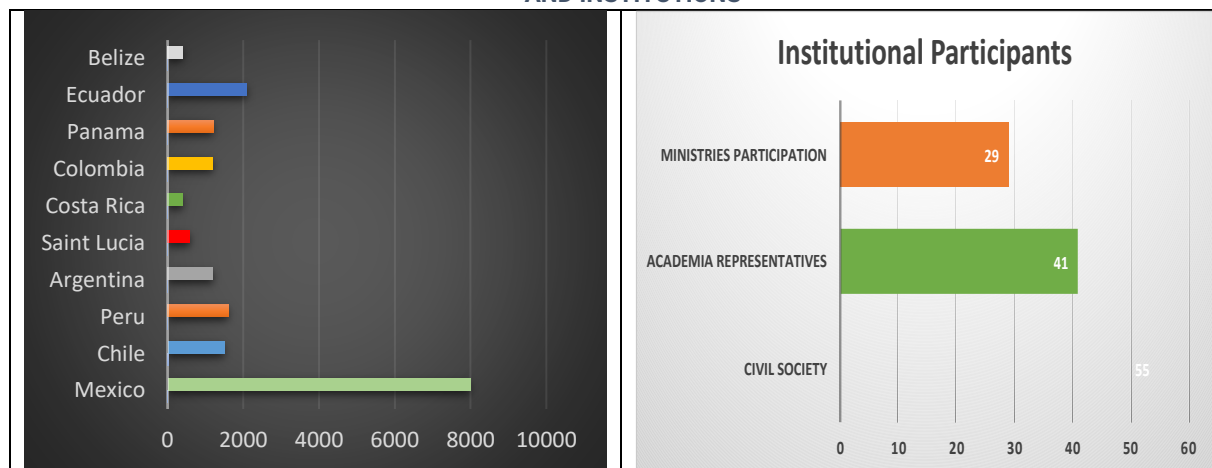
STAKEHOLDERS/COUNTRIES PARTICIPATION IN EACH IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD			
<b>PGR 1.</b> Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia	<b>PGR 2.</b> OECS, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.	<b>PGR 3.</b> OECS (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).	<b>PG 4.</b> Belize, Grenada, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay and the remaining countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In Argentina, Belize, Mexico and Uruguay	Ecuador, México, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.  Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Honduras		Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Bolivia and Ecuador
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Source: Progress Report 1 to 4.

Overall, it is observed that the stakeholder participation was robust, with significant representation from civil society, academia, and government ministries. For example:

**FIGURE 9. ESTIMATED PERSONS OF THE CSO PRESENT AT ONE OR MORE EVENTS ORGANIZED BY COUNTRY AND INSTITUTIONS**



Source: Interviews conducted by this Evaluation.

**TABLE 10. INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION IN ONE OR MORE EVENTS BY COUNTRY**

Countries	Civil Society <sup>8</sup>	Civil Society Affiliates <sup>9</sup>	Academia Representatives <sup>10</sup>	Ministries participation <sup>11</sup>
Mexico	4	8.000	4	3
Chile	12	1.500	8	4
Peru	8	1.600	4	3

<sup>8</sup> Civil Society Organization that has participated in at least in one event organized by ECLAC

<sup>9</sup> Estimated amount of CSO affiliates

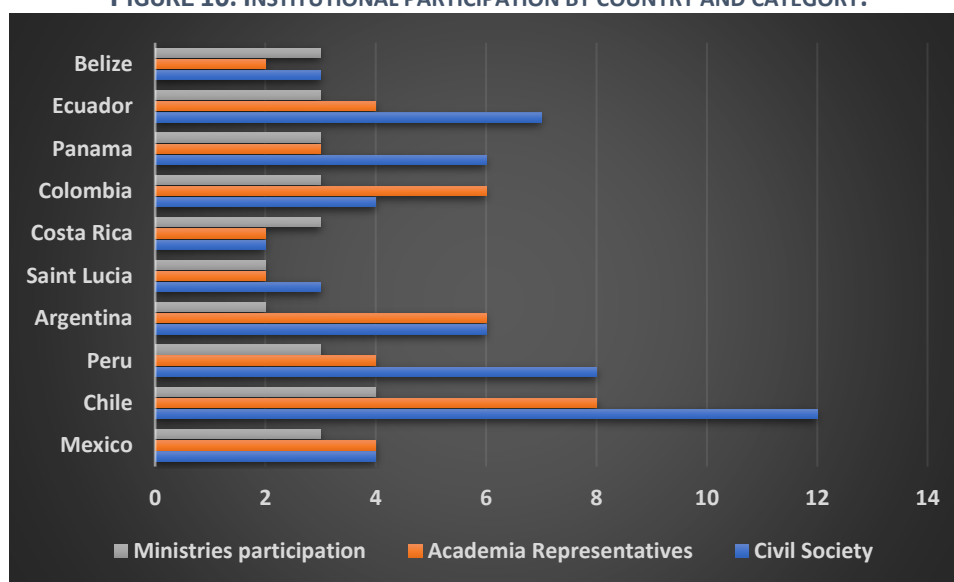
<sup>10</sup> Number of professors that have participated in at least one event organized by ECLAC

<sup>11</sup> Number of ministries that have participated in at least one event organized by ECLAC (i.e. 3 ministries in Mexico: External Relations, Environment, Ministry of Women.

Argentina	6	1.200	6	2
Saint Lucia	3	600	2	2
Costa Rica	2	400	2	3
Colombia	4	1.200	6	3
Panama	6	1.200	3	3
Ecuador	7	2.100	4	3
Belize	3	400	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>18.200</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>

Source: ECLAC and estimation through interviews and country information

**FIGURE 10. INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY AND CATEGORY.**



Estimated by the evaluation

### △ Stakeholder Perceptions on Benefit Distribution and Performance Value

Findings from stakeholder interviews indicate that nearly 70% of respondents believe that the greatest share of benefits from the project's implementation has been received by governments. Specifically, **65% of interviewees** identified national governments as the primary beneficiaries, largely due to capacity-building initiatives, policy support, and technical assistance provided through the project. Governments have gained improved institutional frameworks, enhanced access to environmental information, and strengthened legal mechanisms for public participation and justice in environmental matters.

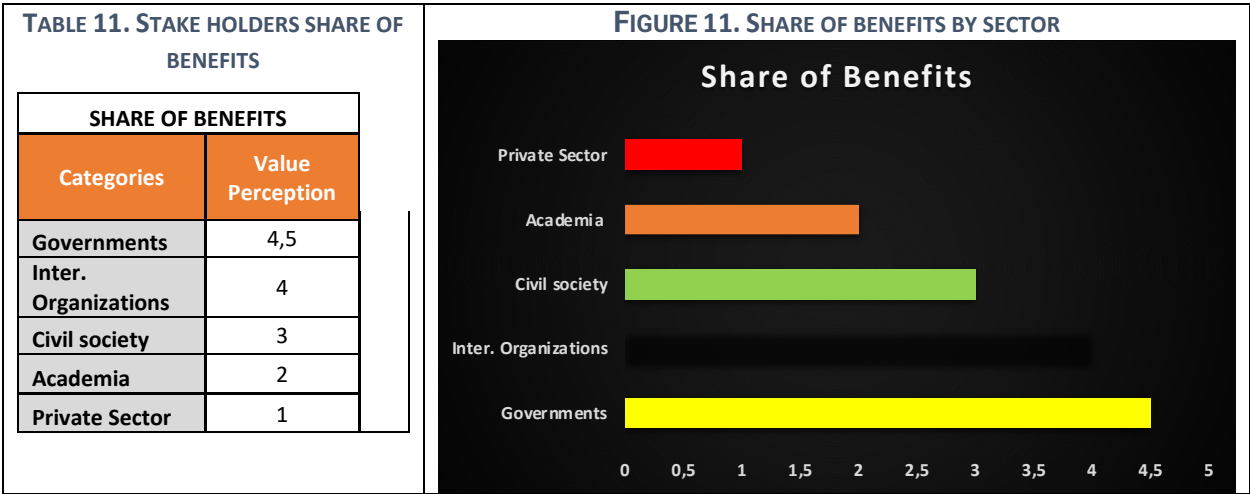
The second most significant beneficiary group includes **international organizations**, which have actively participated in events as strategic partners of ECLAC. Their involvement has led to expanded networking


opportunities, increased synergies with other multilateral agencies, and strengthened collaboration on environmental governance initiatives.

**Civil society organizations (CSOs)** rank third in terms of perceived benefits. While their engagement has been significant—particularly in advocacy efforts, awareness campaigns, and monitoring environmental rights—the level of direct institutional support they have received remains lower than that of governments.

**Academic institutions and the private sector** occupy the last positions in benefit distribution. Their participation in Escazú-related activities has been relatively modest, resulting in limited direct advantages. While academia has contributed through research and policy recommendations, and some private-sector actors have engaged in dialogues on environmental sustainability, their overall involvement remains low compared to other stakeholders.



The **perceived value of the project’s contribution and the ranking of institutional participation** are illustrated in the table and graph below, reflecting stakeholder insights on how benefits have been distributed among different actors. These findings highlight the need for broader engagement strategies to ensure that all relevant sectors, including academia and private enterprises, are more actively involved in future initiatives.





**Successes and Challenges Identification**

Through a comprehensive review of documents, interviews, and survey responses, the evaluation has identified key successes and challenges encountered during the project’s implementation period. These insights provide a well-rounded understanding of the project’s contributions, effectiveness, and areas requiring further attention.

 <b>Successes:</b>	 <b>Challenges:</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong stakeholder engagement and collaboration, enhancing project ownership and sustainability.</li> <li>• Effective capacity-building initiatives that improved technical expertise and institutional capabilities.</li> <li>• Efficient resource mobilization, with additional funding secured from donors to expand project impact.</li> <li>• High participation rates in events and training sessions, demonstrating broad interest and commitment</li> <li>• Fast-track adoption in Chile following initial political opposition.</li> <li>• Argentina's hosting of COP2 and development of a National Action Plan.</li> <li>• High Effective regional forums for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variability in national institutional capacities, affecting the pace and depth of implementation.</li> <li>• Limited financial and human resources in some target countries, constraining execution</li> <li>• Complex coordination among multiple stakeholders, requiring continuous effort to align priorities.</li> <li>• Administrative and logistical hurdles, particularly in adapting to evolving local contexts.</li> <li>• Slow ratification in key countries.</li> </ul>
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Assessing ECLAC's implementation of the project demonstrated strong efficiency in resource utilization and stakeholder engagement. However, challenges such as limited civil society participation and administrative bottlenecks highlight areas for improvement. The project's success in fostering regional cooperation and institutional strengthening underscores its relevance, but sustained efforts are needed to address gaps and ensure long-term impact.

## 5.3 Effectiveness

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The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has played a pivotal role in supporting countries to implement the Escazú Agreement. This section evaluates the effectiveness of the project by analyzing its achievements, challenges, and impact across participating nations.

### Key Achievements

The Escazú Project successfully achieved its expected outcomes, as outlined in the project's logical framework and Theory of Change. ECLAC's efforts significantly enhanced the capacities of countries in three key areas:

1. **Access to Environmental Information:** Governments established mechanisms to ensure transparency and public access to environmental data.

2. **Public Participation in Decision-Making:** Inclusive participation was promoted, enabling civil society and indigenous communities to engage in policymaking.
3. **Access to Justice in Environmental Matters:** Legal frameworks were strengthened to allow individuals and organizations to seek justice for environmental issues.

ECLAC's management team demonstrated strong political and operational commitment, fostering coordination, complementarity, and synergies across activities. The project's success is reflected in the following outcomes:

- **Strengthened National Capacities:** Governments in target countries (Ecuador, Argentina, Chile, and Saint Lucia) and beyond were equipped to meet their obligations under the Escazú Agreement.
- **Empowered National Stakeholders:** Roadmaps for national implementation were or are being developed in seven countries, including Argentina, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay.

### Progress and Implementation

The project achieved full completion of all planned activities within the project cycle (2021–2024), as evidenced by four Progress Reports. Key milestones include:

- **Increased Ratifications:** The number of Parties grew from 10 to 17, with 24 signatories. Countries like Belize (2023), Chile (2022), Colombia (2024), Dominica (2024), and Grenada (2023) ratified the agreement during the project period.
- **Timely Delivery of Outputs:** All outputs were delivered, with some activities completed ahead of schedule. For example, the regional seminar, initially planned for 2022, was held in 2023 during the second Conference of the Parties (COP). This delay allowed for the incorporation of inputs from public consultations, maximizing the impact of the revised Implementation Guide.

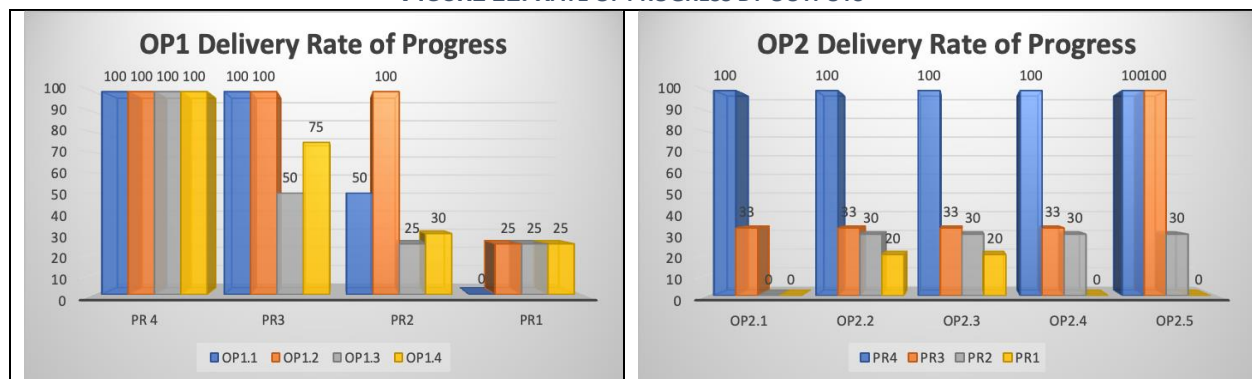
All project outputs were delivered by the final year, with some completed ahead of schedule, demonstrating ECLAC's strong implementation capacity. However, certain activities faced delays, such as the seminar originally planned for 2022, which was instead held in 2023 during the second COP to the Escazú Agreement. As noted in PR3, this postponement ultimately benefited the project, enhancing its impact beyond initial expectations. By 2023, countries had access to the revised implementation guide, published with valuable inputs from public consultations, further strengthening the seminar's relevance and effectiveness<sup>12</sup>.

The following graphs summarizes the progress in implementation of each OP.

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<sup>12</sup> 2024P, Progress Report 2023, page 3.

FIGURE 12. RATE OF PROGRESS BY OUTPUTS



Source: PR 1 to 4. Evaluation's elaboration.

## Challenges and Adaptations

Despite its successes, the project faced several challenges:

- Resource Constraints:** Despite a modest budget of \$649,000 USD, the project made efficient use of its resources and delivered meaningful capacity-building and technical assistance, though the scale of demand across 33 countries exceeded available funding
- Political and Institutional Changes:** Frequent government transitions in the region required regular updates to project objectives and expected accomplishments, causing minor delays. For instance, Mexico's implementation plan could not be finalized by 2024, prompting a reallocation of resources to other countries like Chile.
- Need to continue broad engagement of the public:** While government capacity-building was a success, civil society organizations (CSOs) requested additional support. Indigenous communities, women's groups, and youth organizations faced barriers to participation due to resource constraints and bureaucratic obstacles.

## △ Effectiveness Across Key Areas

The project's effectiveness is assessed based on the following indicators:

### ✓ Access to Environmental Information

- Countries like Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile launched national platforms for environmental data, while others, such as Belize, are in the process of developing similar systems.
- The Escazú Implementation Guide, a key output, provided a roadmap for governments to strengthen transparency. However, its dissemination to local and indigenous communities remains limited.

### ✓ Public Participation in Decision-Making

Despite progress, civil society participation faced significant barriers, including weak legal frameworks, limited consultation processes, and financial constraints. For example:

- Argentina: Grassroots organizations lacked access to public consultations due to digital gaps and limited outreach.
- Chile Indigenous communities, such as the Mapuche, struggled to secure meaningful participation in decisions affecting their lands.
- Mexico: Women’s environmental organizations faced gender biases and institutional neglect.

#### ✓ Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

- Legal frameworks were strengthened in several countries, but enforcement remains inconsistent. Environmental defenders continue to face threats and violence.

### Country references consultations

AR Argentina	
<b>Achievements</b>	Hosted COP 2 (2023), developed a National Action Plan, and led the election of the Implementation Committee
<b>Challenges</b>	Institutional changes such as the merging of the former Ministry of Environment in a broader Ministry is affecting institutional and financial capacities to implement the agreement.
CL Chile	
<b>Achievements</b>	Ratified the agreement in 2022, developed institutional mechanisms for implementation, and enhanced transparency through digital platforms
<b>Challenges</b>	Reaching vulnerable communities, particularly indigenous peoples remain a challenge
UY Uruguay	
<b>Achievements</b>	Among the first to ratify the agreement (2019), integrated Escazú principles into national frameworks, and strengthened legal protections for environmental defenders.

Key interviews have highlighted that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Escazú Agreement’s implementation, the following measures should be considered:

- **Strengthen Civil Society Engagement:** Provide financial and technical support to grassroots organizations, women’s groups, and indigenous communities.
- **Improve Resource Allocation:** Secure additional funding to address the high demand for capacity-building and technical assistance to minority groups.
- **Enhance Legal Frameworks:** Ensure consistent enforcement of laws guaranteeing public participation and access to justice.
- **Promote Regional Collaboration:** Foster peer-to-peer learning and knowledge-sharing among countries to address common challenges.

## 5.4 Sustainability

The sustainability of the project's implementation is a critical factor in ensuring its long-term success. While the project has achieved notable progress in strengthening institutional frameworks and fostering regional cooperation, its sustainability remains fragile and highly dependent on political will and resource availability. Key aspects of sustainability include:

- **Institutional Strengthening:** ECLAC has significantly contributed to building institutional capacity in several countries, particularly in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. However, the continuity of these efforts depends on the commitment of national governments to maintain and expand these structures.
- **Civil Society Engagement:** Without broader societal involvement, the implementation of the agreement risks becoming a top-down process, reducing its long-term impact. Strengthening partnerships with grassroots organizations, indigenous communities, and women's groups is essential for ensuring that the principles of the Escazú Agreement are deeply rooted in society.
- **Financial Resources.** The project's modest budget of \$649,000, while efficiently utilized, was designed to support specific activities in selected target countries. However, it remains limited in relation to the broader geographic and thematic ambitions associated with the full implementation of the Escazú Agreement.
- Additional funding from international donors and multilateral organizations will be crucial for sustaining and scaling up efforts, particularly in non-ratifying countries.
- **Legal and Policy Frameworks:** The integration of Escazú principles into national legal systems is a positive step toward sustainability. However, the lack of uniformity in legal frameworks across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) complicates implementation. Harmonizing these frameworks and ensuring their enforcement will be key to sustaining progress.
- **Political Momentum:** The success of the Escazú Agreement is heavily influenced by political dynamics. Countries like Chile and Uruguay have demonstrated strong political commitment, while others, have complex political situations. Sustaining political momentum will require ongoing advocacy and dialogue with governments, civil society, and the private sector.
- **Private sector and academic representation:** They play a crucial role in promoting transparency in coordination and negotiation activities. Their collaboration enhances environmental governance, strengthens civil society participation in community development, and contributes to education and capacity building. Moreover, their engagement supports the transition toward sustainable and green economies, directly influencing the rights and principles advocated by the Escazú Agreement.

## 5.5 Coherence

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The coherence of ECLAC's implementation of the Escazú Agreement is evident in its alignment with national and regional environmental policies, as well as its integration with broader sustainable development goals. Key aspects of coherence include:

- **Alignment with National Policies:** The Escazú Agreement aligns closely with national environmental policies in countries like Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, where it has been integrated into legal frameworks and institutional structures. This alignment ensures that the agreement complements existing efforts rather than duplicating them.
- **Regional Integration:** ECLAC has effectively promoted regional cooperation through forums, seminars, and workshops, fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member states. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has been particularly active in this regard, with Saint Lucia playing a leading role.
- **Synergies with International Frameworks:** The Escazú Agreement aligns with global environmental and human rights frameworks, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change. This coherence enhances its relevance and facilitates international support.
- **Cross-Sectoral Coordination:** ECLAC has successfully coordinated efforts across different sectors, including government agencies, civil society, and international organizations. However, greater coherence is needed in engaging the private sector, which remains largely unengaged.

## 5.6. Cross-cutting issues

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Several cross-cutting issues have emerged during the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, including gender equality, indigenous rights, and environmental justice. Addressing these issues is essential for achieving the agreement's objectives:

- **Gender Equality:** While the agreement emphasizes inclusivity, women's organizations and gender-sensitive environmental policies require additional attention. Strengthening the participation of women in decision-making processes and addressing gender-based barriers will enhance the agreement's impact.
- **Indigenous Rights:** Indigenous communities face significant barriers to participation in environmental governance. Ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights protected is crucial for achieving environmental justice.
- **Environmental Justice:** The Escazú Agreement aims to promote environmental justice by ensuring access to information, participation, and justice. However, the persistent threats to environmental defenders highlight the need for stronger protections and enforcement mechanisms.

## 6. Conclusions

The implementation of the Escazú Agreement has significantly advanced environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project's contributions have been instrumental in strengthening institutions, developing policies, and improving legal frameworks to enhance transparency, access to information, and public participation in environmental matters. However, challenges persist, particularly in ensuring broader public engagement, securing adequate resources, and maintaining strong political commitment across all signatory countries.

The sustainability of these efforts remains fragile, heavily reliant on continued political will, long-term financial support, and active involvement from governments, private sector actors, and civil society organizations. While progress has been made in implementing mechanisms to ensure access to environmental justice, disparities in national capacities and enforcement mechanisms create gaps in the Agreement's effectiveness.

To build on the successes achieved, further efforts should focus on strengthening institutional frameworks, increasing financial and technical support for local initiatives, and fostering greater regional cooperation. The integration of the private sector and academic institutions in decision-making processes can also contribute to ensuring long-term sustainability. Without sustained commitment from all stakeholders, the transformative potential of the Escazú Agreement may remain limited, and its core objectives—protecting environmental defenders, ensuring access to environmental information, and promoting participatory governance—may not be fully realized.

The following findings summarize the conclusions of the implementation process.

### Key Achievements

- **Institutional Strengthening:** ECLAC has played a critical role in building the capacity of national governments to implement the Escazú Agreement. For example, countries like Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay have established robust institutional mechanisms to ensure compliance with the agreement's principles. These mechanisms include the creation of national platforms for environmental data, the development of legal frameworks for access to justice, and the establishment of formal consultation processes for public participation.
- **Policy Development:** The project's development of the Escazú Implementation Guide and Roadmap for National Strategies has provided governments with practical tools to operationalize the agreement. These resources have been particularly valuable in countries like Belize, where institutional capacity was initially limited. The guide has also facilitated the integration of Escazú principles into national environmental policies, ensuring alignment with broader sustainable development goals.
- **Legal Frameworks:** ECLAC's support has enabled several countries to strengthen their legal frameworks for environmental governance. For instance, Uruguay has integrated Escazú principles into its national legislation, ensuring public access to environmental information and legal protections for environmental defenders. Similarly, Chile has enhanced its transparency mechanisms through digital platforms, allowing citizens to access real-time environmental data.

## Challenges and Limitations

Despite these achievements, several challenges hinder the full realization of the Escazú Agreement's objectives:

- **Need to broaden public engagement:** While governments have benefited from ECLAC's support, civil society organizations (CSOs), indigenous communities, and marginalized groups have often been excluded from decision-making processes. For example, in Argentina, grassroots organizations faced barriers to participating in public consultations due to digital gaps and limited outreach efforts. Similarly, in Chile, indigenous communities like the Mapuche have struggled to secure meaningful participation in decisions affecting their lands. In Peru 7 native leaders from the Iquitos region have been imprisoned for claiming river contamination from an oil extracting company.
- **Resource Constraints:** The project's budget of \$649,000 USD, while efficiently allocated among the selected target countries, proved limited in addressing the broader regional demand for capacity-building and technical assistance.
- **Political Shifts:** The success of the Escazú Agreement is heavily dependent on political will, which has varied across the region. Being Parties to the treaty supports continuity but requires technical and government support to continue implementation. These political dynamics underscore the need for sustained advocacy and dialogue to secure long-term commitment.
- **Threats to Environmental Defenders:**

## Sustainability and Future Directions

The sustainability of ECLAC's efforts depends on addressing these challenges through a combination of political advocacy, financial support, and broader societal involvement. Key priorities include:

- **Strengthening Civil Society Engagement:** ECLAC should prioritize the inclusion of grassroots organizations, indigenous communities, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes. This can be achieved through targeted capacity-building programs, financial support, and the establishment of formal consultation mechanisms.
- **Securing Additional Resources:** ECLAC should seek additional funding to expand the scope of its activities, particularly in non-ratifying countries. A more robust budget will enable the implementation of broader and more impactful initiatives.
- **Promoting Political Commitment:** ECLAC should continue to advocate for the ratification and implementation of the Escazú Agreement in countries that have not yet done so. This can be achieved through high-level political dialogue, regional forums, and public awareness campaigns.
- **Enhancing Legal Protections:** ECLAC should work with governments to strengthen legal frameworks for environmental governance, particularly in areas such as access to justice and the



protection of environmental defenders. This includes ensuring consistent enforcement of existing laws and addressing gaps in legal protections.

### Highlighting Relevant Facts

- **Increased Ratifications:** The number of Parties to the Escazú Agreement grew from 10 to 17 during the project period, with 24 signatories. Countries like Belize (2023), Chile (2022), and Grenada (2023) ratified the agreement, demonstrating growing regional commitment.
- **Key Milestones:** The first Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2022 and the subsequent COPs in 2023 and 2024 marked significant steps in advancing the agreement's objectives. These events facilitated knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member states.
- **Implementation Guide:** The Escazú Implementation Guide, developed by ECLAC, has been widely recognized as a valuable tool for governments. However, its dissemination to local and indigenous communities remains limited, highlighting the need for greater outreach efforts.

ECLAC's project implementation has established a solid foundation for strengthening environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the long-term success of the Agreement hinges on overcoming persistent challenges and ensuring sustained political and financial support. This includes reinforcing the Implementation Unit and the Secretariat with additional contributions from Member States. By enhancing inclusivity, strengthening legal frameworks, and fostering regional collaboration, ECLAC can help maximize the Agreement's impact, ensuring that its benefits reach all citizens, particularly marginalized communities.

## 7. Recommendations

Implementing these recommendations will strengthen the **political will, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability** of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean. By addressing both **high-level policy challenges** and **practical implementation barriers**, these actions will ensure that **access to environmental information, public participation, and justice** are better addressed across the region.

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed:

### Recommendations Aligned with Findings and Conclusions

#### 1. Enhance Engagement of the Public further

*(Linked to Conclusion: Limited engagement of civil society and marginalized groups)*

1. Take additional measures to strengthen inclusivity and participation in the consultation frameworks, encouraging greater participation of grassroots organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector, academia, local entities, marginalized groups and other members of the public.
2. Subject to availability of resources, increase financial and technical support for members of the public, including funding for participation in consultations and capacity-building activities.
3. Disseminate the Escazú Implementation Guide and related tools in culturally appropriate and accessible formats for local communities.

#### 2. Expand and Sustain Financial Resources in target and no target countries

*(Linked to Conclusion: Resource constraints limiting implementation)*

1. Mobilize additional funding, in particular, adequate, stable and predictable resources, through the UN Secretariat, other international organizations, international donors, multilateral development banks, and regional partnerships.
2. Advocate for national budget allocations dedicated to Escazú implementation, particularly for underfunded areas like local outreach and judicial capacity-building.
3. Promote co-financing models involving private sector and philanthropic contributions to support greater public engagement and environmental monitoring.

#### 3. Promote Political Buy-in and Raise Additional Awareness

*(Linked to Conclusion: Political resistance and stalled ratification in key countries)*

1. Raise awareness and engage interested stakeholders in the region, particularly in non-Parties, including through high-level political dialogues and South-South exchanges to expand project gains.
2. Convene regional forums and diplomatic missions to generate political momentum and reinforce commitment to the Escazú Agreement.
3. Reinforce work with regional and subregional bodies to mainstream Escazú priorities in broader development agendas.

#### 4. Within the public, increase the engagement of the Private Sector and linkages with Corporate Responsibility

***(Linked to Conclusion: Private sector integration, particularly in extractive regions)***

1. Organize regional dialogues with stakeholders from the private sector to increase the engagement of a broader base aligning Escazu's transparency goals with sustainable business practices.
2. Develop sector-specific guidelines on environmental democracy and the benefits for the public, including the private sector.
3. Incentivize corporate compliance through public-private partnerships and recognition programs.

#### **5. Strengthen Legal Frameworks and Enforcement**

***(Linked to Conclusion: Legal progress uneven; weak enforcement mechanisms)***

1. Continue supporting countries in implementing priority actions in their national plans and roadmaps.
2. Provide model legal provisions and technical advice for institutionalizing environmental democracy.
3. Encourage the creation of independent oversight bodies to monitor compliance and support enforcement, in line with the requirements of the Escazú Agreement.

#### **6. Improve Regional Coordination and Knowledge Sharing**

***(Linked to Conclusion: Uneven national capacities and limited regional coherence)***

1. Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and best practice exchange through regional platforms and technical working groups.
2. Harmonize data standards, legal definitions, and participatory processes across countries to strengthen coherence.
3. Reinforce the role of ECLAC as a regional hub for tracking implementation progress and providing technical assistance, particularly through the Escazú Agreement clearing house, the Observatory on Principle 10.

#### **7. Strengthen Regional Action to Protect Environmental Defenders More Effectively**

***(Linked to Conclusion: Persistent threats and violence against defenders)***

1. Support countries in the implementation of the regional action plan and in taking national measures, such as rapid-response mechanisms for defenders under threat, with legal and financial support.
2. Continue to training key public officials in the protection of environmental defenders.
3. Support the strengthening of national protection frameworks and promote accountability through investigation and sanction of attacks and violations against defenders.

## 8. Lessons learned and good practices

The evaluation has identified several key lessons and good practices that offer valuable insights extending beyond the primary users of this assessment. These findings hold relevance for policymakers, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders engaged in environmental governance, transparency, and sustainable development. They not only support the future implementation of the Escazú Agreement but also contribute to broader governance and policy frameworks at both national and international levels. By informing future cooperation programs and promoting environmental democracy, these lessons can serve as a model for inclusive and transparent decision-making across various sectors.

### 1. Policy and Political Lessons Learned

#### a. The Importance of High-Level Political Commitment

- **Strong political will and leadership.** The successful implementation of the Escazú Agreement has been closely linked to strong political will and leadership at the national level. Countries that demonstrated clear governmental commitment were able to integrate the principles of the agreement into national policies and institutional frameworks more effectively.
- **Political Dialogue and Advocacy:** The success of the Escazú Agreement has been heavily influenced by political dialogue and advocacy. Continued efforts in this area will be essential for securing ratification and implementation in remaining countries
- **Flexibility and Adaptation:** The project's ability to adapt to changing political and institutional contexts, such as government transitions and the COVID-19 pandemic, has been a key factor in its success. This flexibility should be maintained in future initiatives.
- **Lesson:** Political endorsement at the highest levels is essential for sustained progress and the mainstreaming of environmental democracy principles.

#### b. The Role of Regional and International Cooperation

- **Regional collaboration** and South-South cooperation have played a significant role in knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and the harmonization of policies across countries.
- Regional organizations like CAN MERCOSUR, SICA, and CARICOM, should be considered as partners for the regional implementation of project activities and of the Agreement.
- **Lesson:** Strengthening regional partnerships and cross-border collaboration enhances the effectiveness of environmental governance frameworks.

#### c. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Strengthens Policy Impact

- The involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, and indigenous communities has enriched the implementation process, ensuring that policies are inclusive and address the needs of vulnerable populations.

- **Strategic Targeting:** Prioritizing specific countries and activities has allowed ECLAC to achieve significant results despite limited resources. This targeted approach should be continued, with a focus on expanding to non-ratifying countries
- **Lesson:** Institutionalizing mechanisms for participatory decision-making enhance transparency, legitimacy, and public trust in environmental policies.

#### d. Legislative and Institutional Challenges Must Be Anticipated

- Some countries faced difficulties in harmonizing existing national laws with the provisions of the Escazú Agreement, delaying implementation.
- **Lesson:** Early legal assessments and targeted technical assistance can help governments navigate legislative and institutional adjustments more effectively.

## 2. Operational Lessons Learned

#### a. The Need for Robust Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms

- The availability of clear and standardized indicators has been crucial in tracking progress and identifying gaps. However, some countries lacked adequate data collection and reporting systems.
- **Lesson:** Strengthening national monitoring systems and aligning them with regional mechanisms ensures more effective reporting and accountability.

#### b. Capacity-Building is Essential for Effective Implementation

- Training programs and workshops on environmental governance, public participation, and access to information have significantly improved institutional capacities.
- **Knowledge-Sharing and Capacity-Building:** The development of guidelines, roadmaps, and training programs has been instrumental in supporting national implementation efforts. These tools should be further disseminated and adapted to local contexts.
- **Lesson:** Ongoing training and technical support are necessary for sustained knowledge retention and effective policy implementation.

#### c. Adaptability and Flexibility Enhance Project Impact

- The ability to adapt implementation strategies to country-specific contexts has led to better results, as opposed to a one-size-fits-all approach.
- **Lesson:** Tailoring interventions to local realities while maintaining regional coherence is critical for long-term success.

#### d. Digital Platforms Enhance Accessibility and Participation

- The use of digital tools, such as online portals for environmental information and virtual consultations, has expanded access to marginalized groups and enhanced transparency.
- **Lesson:** Leveraging digital solutions increases stakeholder engagement and supports broader dissemination of environmental information.

### 3. Good Practices with Broader Applicability

#### a. Establishing National Focal Points for Coordination

- Countries that designated a national focal point to oversee Escazú implementation have demonstrated better coordination and alignment across institutions.
- **Potential Use:** This model can be replicated in other multilateral environmental agreements to ensure effective national-level coordination.

#### b. Creating Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

- Some countries established national committees comprising government, CSOs, academia, and private sector representatives to discuss Escazú-related policies.
- **Potential Use:** This inclusive approach can be applied to other policy areas, ensuring diverse perspectives in decision-making.

#### c. Strengthening Local-Level Environmental Justice Mechanisms

- The integration of community-based mechanisms for resolving environmental conflicts has proven effective in improving access to justice.
- **Potential Use:** Decentralized dispute resolution models can be replicated in other governance sectors, such as land management and natural resource use.

#### d. Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Sustainability

- Collaboration with the private sector, particularly in the areas of environmental information dissemination and corporate sustainability, has created synergies that benefit both businesses and the broader public.
- **Potential Use:** Similar partnerships can be encouraged in climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable urban development.

## ANNEX I. EVALUATION TORS

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Assessment of the Development Account Project 2124P “Enhancing access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean to build back greener, fairer and better”**

#### I. Introduction

This assessment is set out in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions 54/236 of December 1999, 54/474 of April 2000, 70/8 of December 2015 and 73-269 of December 2018, which endorsed the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (PPBME) and its subsequent revisions. In this context, the General Assembly requested that programmes be evaluated on a regular, periodic basis, covering all areas of work under their purview. As part of the general strengthening of the evaluation function to support and inform the decision-making cycle in the UN Secretariat in general and ECLAC in particular and within the normative recommendations made by different oversight bodies endorsed by the General Assembly, ECLAC’s Executive Secretary is implementing an evaluation strategy that includes periodic evaluations of different areas of ECLAC’s work. This is therefore a discretionary internal evaluation managed by the Programme Planning and Evaluation Unit (PPEU) of ECLAC’s Programme Planning and Operations division (PPOD).

#### II. Assessment Topic

This assessment is an end-of-cycle review of a project aimed at enhancing the capacities of countries in access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters for the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean as an enabler and driver of coherent policies and approaches for the 2030 Agenda at all levels, particularly to build back greener, fairer and better in a post-COVID 19 scenario.

#### III. Objective of the Assessment

The objective of this assessment is to review the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and sustainability of the project implementation and more particularly document the results the project attained in relation to its overall objectives and expected results as defined in the project document.

The assessment will place an important emphasis in identifying lessons learned and good practices that derive from the implementation of the project, its sustainability and the potential of replicating them in other countries.

The lessons learned and good practices in actual project implementation will in turn be used as tools for the future planning and implementation of projects.

#### IV. Background

## The Development Account

The Development Account (DA) was established by the General Assembly in 1997, as a mechanism to fund capacity development projects of the economic and social entities of the United Nations (UN). By building capacity on three levels, namely: (i) the individual; (ii) the organizational; and (iii) the enabling environment, the DA becomes a supportive vehicle for advancing the implementation of internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) and the outcomes of the UN conferences and summits. The DA adopts a medium to long-term approach in helping countries to better integrate social, economic and environmental policies and strategies in order to achieve inclusive and sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, and sustainable development.

Projects financed from the DA aim at achieving development impact through building the socio-economic capacity of developing countries through collaboration at the national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. The DA provides a mechanism for promoting the exchange and transfer of skills, knowledge and good practices among target countries within and between different geographic regions, and through the cooperation with a wide range of partners in the broader development assistance community. It provides a bridge between in-country capacity development actors, on the one hand, and UN Secretariat entities, on the other. The latter offer distinctive skills and competencies in a broad range of economic and social issues that are often only marginally dealt with by other development partners at country level. For target countries, the DA provides a vehicle to tap into the normative and analytical expertise of the UN Secretariat and receive on-going policy support in the economic and social area, particularly in areas where such expertise does not reside in the capacities of the UN country teams.

The DA's operational profile is further reinforced by the adoption of pilot approaches that test new ideas and eventually scale them up through supplementary funding, with an emphasis on integration of national expertise in the projects to ensure national ownership and sustainability of project outcomes.

DA projects are programmed in tranches, which represent the Account's programming cycle. The DA is funded from the Secretariat's regular budget and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of its 10 implementing entities. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) provides overall management of the DA portfolio.

ECLAC undertakes internal assessments of DA projects in accordance with DA requirements. Assessments are defined by ECLAC as brief end-of-project evaluation exercises aimed at assessing the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of project activities. They are undertaken as desk studies and consist of a document review, stakeholder survey, and a limited number of telephone-based interviews.

### The project

The project under evaluation is part of the projects approved under this account for the 12th Tranche (2020-2023). It was implemented by the ECLAC's Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division.

The duration of this project was of approximately three and half years, having started activities in January 2021, and with an estimated date of closure of June 2024.



The overall logic of the project against which results and impact will be assessed contains an overall objective and a set of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement that will be used as signposts to assess its effectiveness and relevance.

The project's objective as stated above is "enhancing the capacities of countries in access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters for the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean as an enabler and driver of coherent policies and approaches for the 2030 Agenda at all levels, particularly to build back greener, fairer and better in a post-COVID 19 scenario".

The expected accomplishments were defined as follows:

**EA1** Strengthen national capacities of governments in four selected target countries to meet the obligations assumed in the Escazú Agreement.

**EA2** Strengthened capacity of national stakeholders in four selected target countries to implement the obligations contained in the Escazú Agreement using transparent, participatory and inclusive policies and processes.

To achieve the expected accomplishments above, the following outputs were originally planned:

OP1.1 Organized one multi-stakeholder seminar to share best practices and experiences, strengthen national capacities of government officials related to environmental access rights and prepare and discuss the regional assessment on the basis of the discussions on common challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities identified;

OP1.2 Updated regional assessment based on common challenges, needs and good practices to support the implementation of environmental access rights, increasing the capacities of governments in the region to meet the obligations of the Escazú Agreement;

OP 1.3 Enhanced the regional Observatory on Principle 10, expanding it with key information and resources to support national implementation actions and improving visibility and use by countries of the region in line with article 12 of the Escazú Agreement (clearing house), supporting awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts of the different stakeholders.

OP 1.4 Prepared different promotional materials to raise general awareness about environmental access rights and the Escazú Agreement in the general public, with a special focus on persons and groups in vulnerable situations and seeking to educate the public at large about their environmental access rights.

OP2.1 Delivered an e-learning course on the Regional Agreement to raise awareness and strengthen understanding of obligations and implications of regional and national stakeholders, targeting particularly relevant government officials responsible for the implementation of international obligations;

OP2.2 Prepared accessible versions of the Escazú Agreement and implementation materials in different languages and alternative formats for promote knowledge of rights and dissemination across all sectors of society, including persons and groups in vulnerable situation, such versions for youth, persons with disabilities or in indigenous languages.

OP2.3 Delivered two national multi-stakeholder participatory capacity-building workshops in each selected target country to build capacities of various actors and provide technical assistance to take recommended measures and actions;

OP2.4 Organized one regional and two subregional meetings (one for Latin America and one for the Caribbean) of relevant stakeholders to discuss common challenges and exchange best practices on the

implementation of the Regional Agreement at the national level, building on the national activities and sharing lessons learned;

OP2.5 Conducted technical advisory missions as and when required to support target countries in assessing needs and implementing work plans for action.

The budget for the project totalled USD\$ 649,000. Progress reports were prepared on a yearly basis.

### Stakeholder Analysis

As stated in the project document, the main project stakeholders were local and sub-national governments, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and regional/multilateral organizations, in line with national priorities and contexts.

### V. Guiding Principles

The evaluation will seek to be independent, credible and useful and adhere to the highest possible professional standards. It will be consultative and engage the participation of a broad range of stakeholders. The unit of analysis is the project itself, including its design, implementation and effects. The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions contained in the Project Document. The evaluation will be conducted in line with the norms, standards and ethical principles of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG)<sup>13</sup>.

It is expected that ECLAC's guiding principles to the evaluation process are applied<sup>14</sup>. In particular, special consideration will be taken to assess the extent to which ECLAC's activities and outputs respected and promoted human rights<sup>15</sup>. This includes a consideration of whether ECLAC interventions treated beneficiaries as equals, safeguarded and promoted the rights of minorities, and helped to empower civil society.

The evaluation will also examine the extent to which gender concerns were incorporated into the project – whether project design and implementation incorporated the needs and priorities of women, whether women were treated as equal players, and whether it served to promote women's empowerment.

Other concerns to be integrated into the evaluations are disability inclusion, and environmental issues.

Moreover, the evaluation process itself, including the design, data collection, and dissemination of the assessment report, will be carried out in alignment with these principles<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> Norms and Standards for Evaluation, UNEG, June 2016.

<http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1914>

UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, UNEG, June 2020.

<http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866>

<sup>14</sup> See ECLAC, "Preparing and Conducting Evaluations: ECLAC Guidelines" (2024) and ECLAC, "Evaluation Policy and Strategy" (2024) for a full description of its guiding principles.

<sup>15</sup> For further reference see UNEG "Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations" (2014)

<http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1616> and "Guidance on Evaluating Institutional Gender Mainstreaming" (2018) <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2133>

<sup>16</sup> *Human rights and gender perspective*.

The evaluation will also include an assessment of the project's contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Evaluators are also expected to respect UNEG's ethical principles as per its "Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation"<sup>17</sup>:

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Respect
- Beneficence

## VI. Scope of the assessment

In line with the assessment objective, the scope of the assessment will more specifically cover all the activities implemented by the project. The assessment will review the benefits accrued by the various stakeholders in the region, as well as the sustainability of the project interventions. The assessment will also review the interaction and coordination modalities used in its implementation within ECLAC, and between/among other co-operating agencies participating in the implementation of the project.

In summary, the elements to be covered in the assessment include:

Actual progress made towards project objectives

The extent to which the project has contributed to outcomes in the identified countries whether intended or unintended.

The efficiency with which outputs were delivered.

The strengths and weaknesses of project implementation on the basis of the available elements of the logical framework (objectives, results, etc.) contained in the project document

The validity of the strategy and partnership arrangements. Coordination within ECLAC, and with other co-operating agencies.

The extent to which the project was designed and implemented to facilitate the attainment of the goals.

Relevance of the project's activities and outputs towards the needs of Member States, the needs of the region and the mandates and programme of works of ECLAC.

It will also assess various aspects related to the way the project met the following Development Account criteria:

Result in durable, self-sustaining initiatives to develop national capacities, with measurable impact at field level, ideally having multiplier effects;

Be innovative and take advantage of information and communication technology, knowledge management and networking of expertise at the sub regional, regional and global levels;

Utilize the technical, human and other resources available in developing countries and effectively draw on the existing knowledge/skills/capacity within the UN Secretariat;

Create synergies with other development interventions and benefit from partnerships with non-UN stakeholders.

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<sup>17</sup> UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, UNEG, June 2020.  
<http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866>

## VII. Methodology

The assessment will use the following data collection methods to assess the impact of the work of the project:

**a) Desk review and secondary data collection analysis:** of the programme of work of ECLAC, DA project criteria, the project document, annual reports of advance, workshops and meetings reports and evaluation surveys, other project documentation such as project methodology, country reports, consolidated report, webpage, etc.

**b) Self-administered surveys:** Surveys to beneficiaries in the different participating countries covered by the project should be considered as part of the methodology. Surveys to co-operating agencies and stakeholders within the United Nations and the countries participating in the project should be considered if applicable and relevant. PPEU can provide support to manage the online surveys through SurveyMonkey. In the case, this procedure is agreed upon with the evaluator, PPEU will distribute the surveys among project beneficiaries to the revised lists facilitated by the consultant. PPEU will finally provide the evaluator with the consolidated responses.

**c) Semi-structured interviews and focus groups** to validate and triangulate information and findings from the surveys and the document reviews, a limited number of interviews (structured, semi-structured, in-depth, key informant, focus group, etc.) may be carried out via tele- or video-conference with project partners to capture the perspectives of managers, beneficiaries, participating ministries, departments and agencies, etc. PPEU will provide assistance to coordinate the interviews, including initial contact with beneficiaries to present the assessment and the evaluator. Following this presentation, the evaluator will directly arrange the interviews with available beneficiaries, project managers and co-operating agencies.

Methodological triangulation is an underlying principle of the approach chosen. Suitable frameworks for analysis and evaluation are to be elaborated – based on the questions to be answered. The experts will identify and set out the methods and frameworks as part of the *inception report*.

## VIII. Evaluation Issues/ Questions

This assessment encompasses the different stages of the given project, including its design, process, results, and impact, and is structured around four main criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability. Within each of these criteria, a set of *evaluation questions* will be applied to guide the analysis<sup>18</sup>. The responses to these questions are intended to explain “the extent to which,” “why,” and “how” specific outcomes were attained.

The questions included hereafter are intended to serve as a basis for the final set of evaluation questions, to be adapted by the evaluator and presented in the inception report.

### **Relevance:**

How in line were the activities and outputs delivered with the priorities of the targeted countries?

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<sup>18</sup> The questions included here will serve as a basis for the final set of evaluation questions, to be adapted by the evaluator and presented in the inception report.

### ***Efficiency***

Provision of services and support in a timely and reliable manner, according to the priorities established by the project document;

Has the project been able to adapt efficiently to changing conditions during its implementation?

### ***Effectiveness***

How satisfied are the project's main beneficiaries with the services they received?

What are the results identified by the beneficiaries?

Has the project made any difference in the behavior/attitude/skills/ performance of the beneficiaries?

### ***Coherence***

To what extent has partnering with other organizations enabled or enhanced reaching of results?

Were there any complementarities and synergies with other work being developed by ECLAC or by beneficiary countries?

### ***Sustainability***

How have the project's main results and recommendations been used or incorporated in the work and practices of beneficiary institutions after completion of the project's activities? What were the multiplier effects generated by the programme?

What mechanisms were set up to ensure the follow-up of tools and networks created under the project?

### ***Cross-cutting issues***

Have the project managers effectively taken into consideration human rights, gender issues, disability inclusion and environmental concerns in the design and implementation of the project and its activities?

Has and how has the project contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

## **IX. Deliverables**

The assessment will include the following outputs (prepared in English):

**Work Plan and Inception Report.** No later than 4 weeks after the signature of the contract, the consultant should deliver the inception report, which should include the background of the project, an analysis of the Project profile and implementation and a full review of all related documentation as well as project implementation reports. It should provide a detailed Work Plan of all the activities to be carried out related to the assessment of project 2023Q. Additionally, the inception report should include a detailed evaluation methodology including the description of the types of data collection instruments that will be used and a full analysis of the stakeholders and partners that will be contacted to obtain the evaluation information. First drafts of the instruments to be used for the survey, focus groups and interviews should also be included in this first report.

**Draft final evaluation Report.** No later than 12 weeks after the signature of the contract, the consultant should deliver the preliminary report for revision and comments by the Programme Planning and Operations Division (PPOD) of ECLAC and the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG), which includes representatives of the implementing substantive Division/Office. The draft final evaluation report should include the main draft results and findings, conclusions of the evaluation, lessons learned and recommendations derived from it, including its sustainability, and potential improvements in project management and coordination of similar DA projects.

**Final Evaluation Report.** No later than 16 weeks after the signature of the contract, the consultant should deliver the final evaluation report which should include the revised version of the preliminary version after making sure all the comments and observations from PPOD and the ERG have been included. Before submitting the final report, the consultant must have received the clearance on this final version from PPOD, assuring the satisfaction of ECLAC with the final evaluation report. The report will follow the DA evaluation template provided by ECLAC.

**Presentation of the results of the evaluation.** A final presentation of the main results of the evaluation to ECLAC staff involved in the project will be delivered at the same time of the delivery of the final evaluation report.

## **X. Payment schedule and conditions**

The duration of the consultancy will be initially for 16 weeks during the months of October 2023 to February 2024 (TBC). The consultant will be reporting to and be managed by the Programme Planning and Evaluation Unit (PPEU) of the Programme Planning and Operations Division (PPOD) of ECLAC. Support to the evaluation activities will be provided by the ECLAC's Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division.

The contract will include the payment for the services of the consultant as well as all the related expenses of the evaluation. Payments will be done according to the following schedule and conditions:

30% of the total value of the contract will be paid against the satisfactory delivery of the inception report which should be delivered as per the above deadlines.

30% of the total value of the contract will be paid against the satisfactory delivery of the draft final evaluation report which should be delivered as per the above deadlines.

40% of the total value of the contract will be paid against the satisfactory delivery and presentation of the final evaluation report which should be delivered as per the above deadlines.

All payments will be done only after the approval of each progress report and the final report from the Programme Planning and Evaluation Unit (PPEU) of the Programme Planning and Operations Division (PPOD) of ECLAC.

## **XI. Profile of the Evaluator**

The evaluator will have the following characteristics:

Education

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental science, environmental policy, economics, engineering, public policy, or a related area.

#### Experience

At least seven years of progressively responsible relevant experience in programme/project evaluation are required.

At least two years of experience in areas related to public policies for sustainable development, climate change and/or related areas is highly desirable.

Experience in at least three evaluations with international (development) organizations is required. Experience in Regional Commissions and United Nations projects, especially Development Account projects is highly desirable.

Proven competency in quantitative and qualitative research methods, particularly self-administered surveys, document analysis, and informal and semi-structured interviews are required.

Working experience in the Caribbean is desirable.

#### Language Requirements

Proficiency in English is required.

#### XII. Roles and responsibilities in the evaluation process

##### Commissioner of the evaluation

(ECLAC Executive Secretary and PPOD Director)

Mandates the evaluation

Provides the funds to undertake the evaluation

Safeguards the independence of the evaluation process

##### Task manager

(PPEU Evaluation Team)

Drafts evaluation TORs

Recruits the evaluator/evaluation team

Shares relevant information and documentation and provides strategic guidance to the evaluator/evaluation team

Provides overall management of the evaluation and its budget, including administrative and logistical support in the methodological process and organization of evaluation missions

Coordinates communication between the evaluator/evaluation team, implementing partners and the ERG, and convenes meetings

Supports the evaluator/evaluation team in the data collection process

Reviews key evaluation deliverables for quality and robustness and facilitates the overall quality assurance process for the evaluation

Manages the editing, dissemination and communication of the evaluation report

Implements the evaluation follow-up process

##### Evaluator/Evaluation team

(External consultant)

Undertakes the desk review, designs the evaluation methodology and prepares the inception report

Conducts the data collection process, including the design of the electronic survey and semi-structured interviews  
Carries out the data analysis  
Drafts the evaluation report and undertakes revisions

Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)

(Composed of representatives of each of the implementing partners)

Provides feedback to the evaluator/evaluation team on preliminary evaluation findings and final conclusions and recommendations

Reviews draft evaluation report for robustness of evidence and factual accuracy

XIII. Other Issues

Intellectual property rights. The consultant is obliged to cede to ECLAC all authors rights, patents and any other intellectual property rights for all the work, reports, final products and materials resulting from the design and implementation of this consultancy, in the cases where these rights are applicable. The consultant will not be allowed to use, nor provide or disseminate part of these products and reports or its total to third parties without previously obtaining a written permission from ECLAC.

Coordination arrangements. The team in charge of the evaluation comprised of the staff of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Unit of ECLAC and the consultant will confer and coordinate activities on an on-going basis, ensuring at least a monthly coordination meeting/teleconference to ensure the project is on track and that immediate urgencies and problems are dealt with in a timely manner. If any difficulty or problem develops in the interim the evaluation team member will raise it immediately with the rest of the team so that immediate solutions can be explored and decisions taken.

XIV. Assessment use and dissemination

This assessment seeks to identify best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of development account projects and specifically the capacities of the beneficiary countries to promote digital economy policies. The evaluation findings will be presented to and discussed with ECLAC. An Action Plan will be developed to implement recommendations when appropriate in future projects. The evaluation report will also be circulated through ECLAC (along with other knowledge management tools), including circulating a final copy to DESA, as the programme manager for the Development Account, so as to constitute a learning tool in the organization.



## ANNEX II. DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

### Participative Assessment

The assessment has been a collaborative effort, engaging key stakeholders involved in the implementation process, including regional entities, government institutions, and civil society representatives. Their insights have been instrumental in evaluating the current implementation and generating ideas for future initiatives.

### Gathering information methods

#### (a). Desk Review

The evaluation reviewed documentation provided by ECLAC, stakeholders and third parties on the specified activities. It has also used online databases and other reports relevant to activity efforts, including reports from CSOs and research centers. Other secondary sources included a range of resources (e.g., annual work plans and evaluation/assessment reports). The product of the evaluation's document review allowed the preparation the Inception Report of this evaluation. An important source was ECLAC's database, and progress reports on all current and previous activities (concluded actions); reports on all implementing activities including organizational structures and the follow up of the Escazú Agreement guiding principles and procedures were reviewed.

#### (b). Key Informant Interviews

For this evaluation, key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with individuals possessing in-depth knowledge of the Escazú Agreement and its related funding activities. These interviews included relevant personnel from ECLAC's implementing unit, officers from UN/ECLAC focal points, and representatives from sub-regional organizations, such as the OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) – within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ECLAC for an Enhanced Program of Action on the Escazú Agreement in the Eastern Caribbean.

#### - Expansion of the Assessment Scope.

In addition to the original target countries, the evaluation also considered countries outside the initial scope based on their participation in project activities and policy advocacy for the Escazú Agreement, even if they have not yet ratified it. These countries include: Chile, Argentina, Peru and Belize<sup>19</sup>.

This expanded selection was determined in consultation with ECLAC's implementing unit to ensure a more comprehensive evaluation. The sampled participants provided insights into their experiences and perceptions of the various activities addressed in

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<sup>19</sup> Although, non-Parties countries like Peru are treated as a non-comparative reference to the target countries and to the overall Escazu Agreement.

the assessment. Additionally, KII respondents contributed valuable perspectives on organizational and administrative structures, as well as planned outcomes

## - Interview Process & Methodology

The list of key informants was developed through: (i) a document review of relevant project materials; and (ii) consultation with ECLAC's implementing team to identify key activities and stakeholders to be included.

KIIs were conducted using a semi-structured interview guide which allowed interviewees to engage in a structured conversation while also providing additional relevant insights. This flexible approach ensured that key information was systematically gathered while allowing informants to elaborate on critical aspects of the project.

## - Interview Data Overview

A database provided by ECLAC initially included a total of 58 potential interviews. From this pool, a final list was refined based on target and extended target countries, resulting in 43 interview requests and 31 interviews completed (53% response rate)

This methodology provided a robust qualitative dataset, enhancing the evaluation's ability to assess project effectiveness, stakeholder engagement, and the broader impact of the Escazú Agreement implementation in the region<sup>20</sup>.

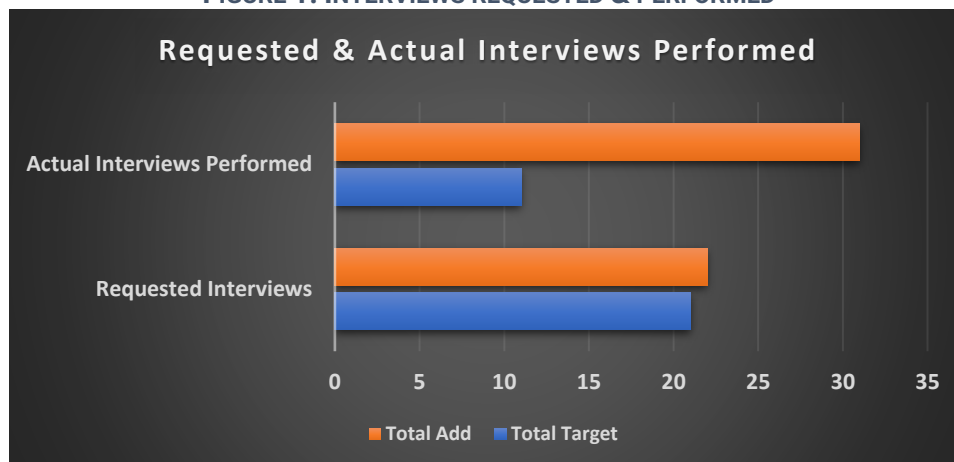
**TABLE 1. TARGET & EXTENDED INTERVIEW SAMPLE**

Description	Requested Interviews										
	Mexico	Uruguay	Ecuador	St. Lucia	TOTAL TARGET	Chile	Argentina	Peru (?)	Belize	TOTAL ADD	GRAN TOTAL
Target countries + New countries											
Main counterpart	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1		3	5
Government representatives (2)	1	1	2	2	6	1	0	1	1	3	9
Civil society (women's associations, minorities.)	2	1	2	1	6	2	2	2	1	7	13
Direct Beneficiaries (bs. Assoc. Union associations)	1	1	2	1	5	2	1	2		5	10
International organizations	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	4	6
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>

<sup>20</sup> See **Annex: List of Interviews** for a detailed breakdown by country and representative distribution

Description	Actual Interviews Performed										
	Mexico	Uruguay	Ecuador	St. Lucia	Total Target	Chile	Argentina	Peru (?)	Others*	TOTAL	Gran Total
Target countries + New countries	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0		1	2
Main counterpart	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	1	6	10
Government representatives (2)	1	1	2	0	4	2	2	3	1	8	12
Civil society (women's associations, minorities.)	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2		3	4
Direct Beneficiaries (bs. Assoc. Union associations)	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	3
International organizations	3	3	3	2	11	7	4	6	3	20	31
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>

**FIGURE 1. INTERVIEWS REQUESTED & PERFORMED**



**- Interview classification by gender and activity sector**

The conducted interviews were further categorized based on **gender** and the **activity sector** of the interviewees. The classification results are as follows:

**△ Gender Distribution:**

- Male participants: 18 (58%)
- Female participants: 13 (42%)

**△ Sectoral Distribution:**

- Government representatives: 58%
- Civil society organizations: 32%
- International organizations: 10%

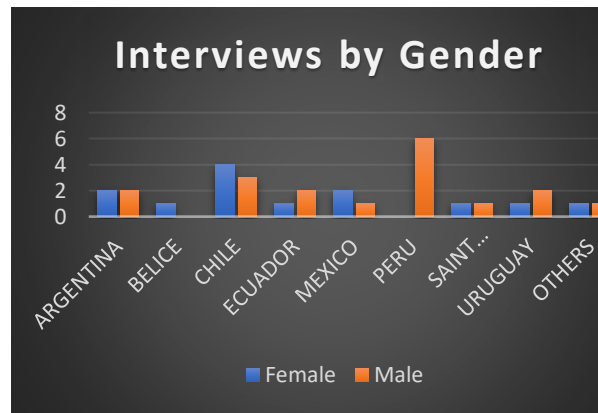
This sample is considered representative of the diverse range of stakeholders engaged in the activities implemented under the Escazú Agreement. The breakdown reflects the participation patterns observed throughout the project and provides a solid foundation for evaluating the inclusivity and reach of the initiative.

The following tables and graphs (see below) offer a detailed visualization of these findings, further supporting the evaluation's analysis.

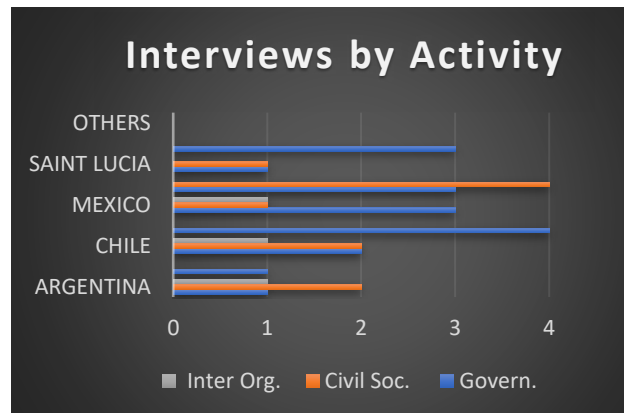
**TABLE 2. INTERVIEW PERFORMED BY GENDER AND WORK ACTIVITY**

Performed Interview by Gender and Working Activity							
	Female	Male	TOTAL	Govern.	Civil Soc.	Inter Org.	TOTAL
ARGENTINA	2	2	4	1	2	1	4
BELICE	1		1	1			1
CHILE	4	3	7	2	2	1	5
ECUADOR	1	2	3	4			4
MEXICO	2	1	3	3	1	1	5
PERU	0	6	6	3	4	0	7
SAINT LUCIA	1	1	2	1	1		2
URUGUAY	1	2	3	3			3
OTHERS	1	1	2				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>

**FIGURE 2. INTERVIEWS BY GENDER**



**FIGURE 3. INTERVIEW BY ACTIVITY**



### (c) Survey Deployment and Evaluation Decision

As part of Phase 2 of this evaluation, a decision was made to conduct a survey targeting key countries, organizations, and individuals involved in the project. The survey was administered by ECLAC's PPEU using SurveyMonkey, following mutually agreed procedures with the evaluator. It was conducted between January 20 and February 18, 2025.

However, the survey yielded low response rates and limited substantive feedback. The response rate was less than 10%, and significant inconsistencies were identified in participants' assessments of project activities and expected outcomes. Due to these limitations, the evaluation decided not to incorporate the survey findings into the final assessment, but used valid responses as references

			<b>PROGRESS REPORT OUTCOMES</b>
		<b>OP1.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Multi-stakeholder seminar to share best practices and experiences.</li> <li>ii. Strengthen national capacities of government</li> <li>iii. Prepare and discuss the regional assessment</li> <li>iv. Identified common challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities</li> </ul>
		<b>OP1.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Updated regional assessment</li> <li>ii. Support the implementation of environmental access rights</li> <li>iii. Increasing the capacities of governments to meet obligations of the Escazú Agreement</li> </ul>
		<b>OP1.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Enhanced the regional Observatory on Principle 10 with key information and resources to support national implementation action and improving</li> <li>ii. Supporting awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts of the different stakeholders.</li> </ul>
		<b>OP1.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Prepared different promotional materials to raise general awareness: general public, and vulnerable persons and groups</li> <li>ii. Educate the public at large about their environmental access rights.</li> </ul>
		<b>OP2.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Delivered an e-learning course on the Regional Agreement</li> <li>ii. To raise awareness and strengthen understanding of obligations and implications of stakeholders, particularly government officials</li> </ul>
		<b>OP2.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Prepared accessible versions of the Escazú Agreement and implementation materials in different languages and formats.</li> <li>ii. Dissemination across all sectors of society, including persons and groups in vulnerable situations.</li> </ul>
		<b>OP2.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Delivered two national multi-stakeholder participatory capacity-building workshops in each selected target.</li> <li>ii. Provide technical assistance to take recommended measures and actions</li> </ul>
		<b>OP2.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Organized one regional and two subregional meetings (one for Latin America and one for the Caribbean) of relevant stakeholders</li> </ul>
		<b>OP2.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Conducted technical advisory missions as and when required to support target countries in assessing needs and implementing work plans for action</li> </ul>
		<b>Source:</b>	Project Document
<b>PG 1</b>	<b>Annex I (OUTCOME 1)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Cover of the draft Escazú Agreement implementation guide</li> <li>B. Cover of national capacity assessments in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia and OECS inventory report</li> <li>C. OECS Council of Ministers Decision (20-21 May 2021) on the Sub-regional Environmental Information System and the Escazú Agreement</li> <li>D. New layout of the Observatory on Principle 10 and metrics for 2021</li> <li>E. Escazú Agreement infographic</li> </ul>
	<b>Annex II (OUTCOME 2)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Inter-agency proposal to support Mexico develop a national implementation plan</li> <li>B. Illustrations for youth on the Escazú Agreement</li> <li>C. Agenda of workshop in Antigua and Barbuda</li> <li>D. Agenda of workshop in Argentina</li> <li>E. Agenda, list of participants and survey results of the workshop in Belize</li> <li>F. Agenda of the workshop in Saint Lucia</li> <li>G. Agenda of the workshop in Uruguay</li> </ul>
			Source: Progress Report 1
<b>PG 2</b>	<b>Annex I</b>	<b>OUTCOME 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Political Declaration and decisions of the first Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement</li> <li>B. Cover of the published version of the Escazú Agreement implementation guide</li> <li>C. Available 2022 Metrics for the Observatory on Principle 10</li> <li>D. Infographic on the Escazú Agreement and biodiversity</li> <li>E. Resolution on the Escazú Agreement by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee</li> </ul>
	<b>Annex II (OUTCOME 2)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Request letters received from the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Saint Lucia and Uruguay</li> <li>B. Proposed model roadmap for national implementation of the Escazú Agreement in target countries</li> <li>C. Agenda, list of participants and evaluation of workshop in Honduras</li> <li>D. Accessible versions of COP and CSIC rules</li> <li>E. Agenda of first annual forum on human rights defenders in environmental matters</li> </ul>
			Source: Progress Report 2
<b>PGR 3</b>	<b>ANNEX 1</b>	<b>OUTCOME 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Buenos Aires Declaration and decision of the Second Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement</li> <li>B. Cover of the revised Implementation Guide to the Escazú Agreement</li> <li>16</li> <li>C. Agenda of the "Regional dialogue: strengthening capacities for national implementation"</li> <li>D. Available 2023 metrics for the Observatory on Principle 10</li> <li>E. Infographic on the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance</li> </ul>
	<b>Annex II</b>	<b>OUTCOME 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Cover of the roadmap for national implementation in Ecuador</li> <li>B. Cover of the roadmap for national implementation in Argentina</li> <li>C. Request letter from Belize</li> <li>D. Agenda of the national workshop held in Chile</li> <li>E. Presentation of the implementation plan in Argentina</li> <li>F. Agenda of the national workshop held in Saint Lucia</li> <li>G. Agenda of the second annual forum on human rights defenders in environmental matters</li> <li>H. Agenda of the EIA authorities workshop in Argentina</li> </ul>

# RELATIONAL MATRIX, OUTCOMES, INDICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOMES	INDICATOR	INDICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS	ESPECIFIC ACTIVITIES
OC1		Assessments were concluded in four countries. Ecuador, Argentina, Chile and Saint Lucia,	OP1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Organized one multi-stakeholder seminar</li> <li>ii. Strengthen national capacities of government</li> <li>iii. Prepare and discuss the regional assessment</li> <li>iv. Identified common challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities</li> </ul>
	IA1.1		OP1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Updated regional assessment</li> <li>ii. Support the implementation of environmental access rights</li> <li>iii. Increasing the capacities of governments to meet obligations of the Escazú Agreement</li> </ul>
			OP1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Enhanced the regional Observatory on Principle 10 with key information and resources to support national implementation action and improving</li> <li>ii. Supporting awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts of the different stakeholders.</li> </ul>
			OP1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Prepared different promotional materials to raise general awareness: general public, and vulnerable persons and groups</li> <li>ii. Educate the public at large about their environmental access rights.</li> </ul>
OC2	IA2.1.	Roadmaps to develop strategies and work plans have been agreed in all target countries. seven countries of the region have agreed on roadmaps for national implementation on the Escazú Agreement: Argentina, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.	OP2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Delivered an e-learning course on the Regional Agreement</li> <li>ii. To raise awareness and strengthen understanding of obligations and implications of stakeholders, particularly government officials</li> </ul>
			OP2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Prepared accessible versions of the Escazú Agreement and implementation materials in different languages and formats.</li> <li>ii. Dissemination across all sectors of society, including persons and groups in vulnerable situations.</li> </ul>

## ANNEX III. EVALUATION QUESTIONS MATRIX

Relevance:	EQ1. How in line were the activities and outputs delivered with the priorities of the targeted countries?		VERIFICATION SOURCE
Judgement Criteria	Indicators	Description/Reasoning	SOURCE
1.1. Alignment with Objectives	1.1.1 Strategic Fit	How well does the project align with the country's strategic goals? Does the project support the core mission and values of the country with respect to climate change and access to information?	Review Government plans, policies, laws
	1.1.2 Stakeholder Needs	Are the needs and expectations of stakeholders being met?	Interview/Surveys (IS)
	1.1.3 Supply/Demand	Is there a documented "market" need or demand for the project's outcomes?	Review Government plans, policies, laws
1.2. Stakeholder Engagement	1.2.1 Community Involvement	How engaged are the government authorities or community members or target audience in the project development?	Interview/Surveys (IS)
Efficiency	EQ2. Has the project been able to adapt efficiently to changing conditions during its implementation?		
2.1. Process Efficiency	2.1.1. Supply of services	Provision of services and support in a timely and reliable manner, according to the priorities established by the project document.	Progress reports and (IS)
	2.1.2. Delays in implementation	Identify stages in the project where delays occur and determine their impact on overall	Progress reports, disbursement rates
	2.1.3. Client Satisfaction	Measure satisfaction levels among stakeholders or clients using surveys or feedback forms.	(IS)
2.2. Quality of Output	2.2.4. Team Performance Metrics	Evaluate Government's individual and team contributions to key project goals.	Progress Report
	2.2.5. Quality of Output	Calculate the difference between planned and actual spending, assessing budget adherence over	Operational Reports
	2.2.6. Task Completion Rate	Evaluate the percentage of tasks completed on time relative to the total planned tasks.	Operational Reports
2.3. Workflow Efficiency	2.3.1. Learning Rate	Evaluate how feedback is incorporated into ongoing processes to improve efficiency over	Operational Reports
	2.3.2. Effectiveness Ratio	Qualitative indicators that reflect changes in the quality of life of the beneficiaries as a result of the project.	Progress Report
		Comparison of social indicators before and after the intervention.	Progress of IDG
Effectiveness	EQ3. How satisfied are the project's main beneficiaries with the services they received?		
3.1. Goal Achievement	3.1.1. Change in behavior	Has the project made any difference in the behavior/attitude/skills/ performance of the beneficiaries?	Results identify by beneficiaries (IS)
	3.1.2. Objective Completion Rate	Measure the percentage of project objectives that have been successfully met.	Project Analysis
	3.1.3. Contributions	Establish specific KPIs that align with project goals and measure progress against them.	Project Analysis
3.2. Outcome Measurement	3.2.1. Change Metrics	Evaluate the short-term and long-term contributions of the project on its target population or stakeholders.	(IS)
	3.2.2. Quality of Services/Products	Measure the changes brought about by the project, such as improvements in health, education, or economic status.	Project Analysis
	3.2.3. Quality of Services/Products	Assess stakeholders or client satisfaction through surveys or feedback forms to gauge perceived effectiveness.	(IS)
3.3. Learning and Adaptation	3.3.1. Evaluation and Learning Processes	Measure adherence to established quality standards relevant to the project's deliverables.	Customer Satisfaction Surveys
	3.3.2. Adaptation Rate	Measure the extent to which lessons learned from the project are documented and utilized to improve future initiatives.	Project Analysis
	3.3.3. Adaptation Rate	Assess how effectively the project adapts to feedback or changing circumstances throughout its lifecycle.	Project Analysis
3.4. Reach and Inclusivity	3.4.1. Target Population Coverage	Measure the extent to which the project reaches its intended target population or beneficiaries.	(IS)
	3.4.2. Demographic Diversity	Evaluate whether the project effectively serves diverse demographic groups within the target population.	Project Analysis (IS)
Cohesion	EQ4. To what extent has partnering with other organizations enabled or enhanced reaching of results?		(IS) Reports
4.1. Multisectoral Effort	4.1.1. Institutional engagement	Were there any complementarities and synergies with other work being developed by ECLAC or by beneficiary countries?	(IS) Reports
Sustainability	EQ5. How have the project's main results and recommendations been used or incorporated in the work and practices of the relevant institutions and coordination of the country's activities?		
5.1. Long-lasting effect	5.1.1. Results utility	What mechanisms were set up to ensure the follow-up of tools and networks created under the project?	Progress reports
	5.1.2. Continuity	Is the project implemented to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project?	Progress reports
	5.1.3. Sustainability of outcomes	Assessment of the community's capacity to maintain the benefits obtained.	(IS)
	5.1.4. Longevity of Benefits	How long the project's benefits can persist after completion. Conduct follow-up assessments to determine the continued impact of the project over time. What were the multiplier effects generated by the programme?	Policy, strategies, plans, resources budget Evidence in Progress Reports Management team
Cross-cutting issues	EQ6. To what extent social, economic, ethnic and human factors are part of the conceptual and implementation issues of the project?		
6.1. Social & Environment concern	6.1.1. Sensitivity analysis	Have the project managers effectively taken into consideration human rights, gender issues, disability inclusion and environmental concerns in the design and implementation of the	Activities review (IS)
6.2. Specific achievement	6.2.1. IDG contributions	Has and how has the project contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?	Progress and monitoring and evaluation reports



## ANNEX IV. LIST OF INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED

### FROM ECLAC DATA BASE

The ECLAC Implementing Unit compiled a comprehensive database detailing participant names and their respective country representations across all activities conducted throughout the project's execution.

To further refine the evaluation process, a second list was developed, specifying individuals and their specific roles within the broader scope of the target countries.

Subsequently, a third list was created to define a representative sample, ensuring a balanced selection while considering the practical constraints on the number of feasible interviews and surveys.

Finally, a refined and consolidated list was produced, representing the final sample used in the evaluation process, ensuring comprehensive and meaningful insights.

LISTA AMPLIA PARA REALIZAR ENTREVISTAS DIRECTAS					
Categoría	Nombre	Correo	Género	País	Cargo/Representatividad
Punto focal o contraparte	Maria Fernanda Cámara	<a href="mailto:imcamara@sra.gob.mx">imcamara@sra.gob.mx</a>	f	MX	Ruta de implementación por publicar, Secretaría de Gobierno
Representantes del gobierno	Jose Luis Samaniego	<a href="mailto:ldireccion_incor@semarnat.gob.mx">ldireccion_incor@semarnat.gob.mx</a>	m	MX	Ruta de implementación por publicar
Sociedad Civil: mujeres, niños, minorías	Josefina Santiago	<a href="mailto:meofanesjosefina@gmail.com">meofanesjosefina@gmail.com</a>	f	MX	Coordinadora de Pueblos Unidos por el Cuidado y la Defensa del Agua (COPUDA)
Asociaciones medioambientales	Tomás Severino	<a href="mailto:tseverino@culturaecologica.org.mx">tseverino@culturaecologica.org.mx</a>	m	MX	Cultura Ecológica, ex representante electo del público para el Acuerdo de Escazú
International organizations	Fernanda Hopenhaym	<a href="mailto:hopenhaym@cabrea.un.org">hopenhaym@cabrea.un.org</a>	f	MX	Grupo de Trabajo sobre la cuestión de los DDHH y las empresas transnacionales y otras empresas
Punto focal o contraparte	Marcelo Cousillas	<a href="mailto:marcelo.cousillas@ambiente.gub.uy">marcelo.cousillas@ambiente.gub.uy</a>	m	UR	Representante del Gobierno. Ministerio del Ambiente
Sociedad Civil: mujeres, niños, minorías	Felicia Pagliano	<a href="mailto:fridaysofthuture@gmail.com">fridaysofthuture@gmail.com</a>	f	UR	Org. De la Sociedad Civil, Fridays for Future
Asociaciones medioambientales	Natalia Zaldua	<a href="mailto:nataliazaldua@gmail.com">nataliazaldua@gmail.com</a>	f	UR	Org. Medio ambiental "Vida Silvestre"
International organizations	Dario Fuletti	<a href="mailto:dfuletti@unicef.org">dfuletti@unicef.org</a>	m	UR	UNICEF + Socio estratégico
Punto focal o contraparte	Walter Schuldt	<a href="mailto:wschuldt@cancilleria.gob.ec">wschuldt@cancilleria.gob.ec</a>	m	ECU	Cancillería. Ruta de implementación publicadas
Representantes del gobierno	Juan Diego Stacey	<a href="mailto:jstacey@cancilleria.gob.ec">jstacey@cancilleria.gob.ec</a>	m	ECU	Cancillería. Ruta de implementación publicadas
Asociaciones medioambientales	Manolo Morales	<a href="mailto:mmorales@ecolex-ex.org">mmorales@ecolex-ex.org</a>	m	ECU	Director ECOLEX, Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental
International organizations	Xavier Mena	<a href="mailto:xavier.mena@un.org">xavier.mena@un.org</a>	m	ECU	UN + socio estratégico
Punto focal o contraparte	Kate Wilson	<a href="mailto:kate.wilson@gov.tl">kate.wilson@gov.tl</a>	f	STL	Gov. Ruta de implementación publicada
Representantes del gobierno	Uranda Xavier	<a href="mailto:uranda.xavier@gov.tl">uranda.xavier@gov.tl</a>	f	STL	Gov. Ruta de implementación publicada
Sociedad Civil: mujeres, niños, minorías	Habius Francia	<a href="mailto:hfrancia@gmail.com">hfrancia@gmail.com</a>	m	STL	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
Asociaciones medioambientales	Bishnu Tulisie	<a href="mailto:btulisie@gmail.com">btulisie@gmail.com</a>	m	STL	Org. Medioambientales, Representante del público
International organizations	Chamberlain Emmanuel	<a href="mailto:chamberlain.emmanuel@oecs.int">chamberlain.emmanuel@oecs.int</a>	m	STL	Representative OECS
Asociación Medioam WWF	Manuel Putjar Vidal	<a href="mailto:mputjarvidal@wwfint.org">mputjarvidal@wwfint.org</a>	m	PE	Ex Minister Envi. WWF
Sociedad Civil RES NACIONAL TAMBOPATA	Victor Zambrano	<a href="mailto:vzam46@gmail.com">vzam46@gmail.com</a>	m	PE	Sociedad Civil, Fundación de Reserva nacional de Tambopata
Asociación Medioambiental	Mariano Castro	<a href="mailto:mariano.castro@ucp.edu.pe">mariano.castro@ucp.edu.pe</a>	m	PE	Medioambientalista Académico, Asesor gubernamental
Representantes EX MINISTRO	Jimpaon Dávila	<a href="mailto:jdavila@soda.org.pe">jdavila@soda.org.pe</a>	m	PE	Ex Ministerio Ambiente (Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental)
Representante Selección de autores	Constance Nalegach	<a href="mailto:cnalegach@mma.gob.cl">cnalegach@mma.gob.cl</a>	f	CL	Selección de autores de la Guía ESCAZU
Sociedad Civil Directora Ejecutiva	Valentina Durán	<a href="mailto:valentina.duran@sca.gob.cl">valentina.duran@sca.gob.cl</a>	f	CL	Sociedad Medioambiente NGO SEA

### FROM OTHER SOURCES



During the process of defining the interview list, additional interviews emerged through stakeholder references and consultations. These interviews provided valuable insights from key environmental institutions with relevant expertise and engagement in the Escazú Agreement.

Below is a brief description of each institution, highlighting its role and level of knowledge regarding the Escazú Agreement. This information serves to contextualize their contributions to the evaluation.

<b>Uruguay</b>
En Uruguay, varias organizaciones se dedican a la protección del medioambiente y al impulso de políticas sostenibles:
<b>1. Movimiento Tacuarembó por el Medioambiente (MOTAM)</b>
<b>Descripción:</b> Esta organización trabaja principalmente en la región de Tacuarembó, pero su influencia se extiende por todo el país. Se centra en la promoción de la conservación del medioambiente, la biodiversidad, y la protección de los recursos naturales. <b>Áreas de acción:</b> Conservación de la flora y fauna, campañas contra la deforestación, y educación ambiental. <b>Sitio web:</b> No tienen una página web, pero suelen tener presencia en redes sociales y medios locales. <b>Contacto:</b> A través de redes sociales, principalmente en Facebook. No fue invitado a ninguna actividad de Escazú.
<b>2. Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas de América Latina (RAP-AL Uruguay)</b>
<b>Descripción:</b> RAP-AL Uruguay forma parte de una red regional que promueve el uso sostenible y responsable de pesticidas y la defensa de la salud ambiental y humana frente al uso indiscriminado de productos químicos. <b>Áreas de acción:</b> Uso de pesticidas, defensa de la salud humana y ambiental, educación sobre alternativas ecológicas a los productos químicos. <b>Sitio web:</b> <a href="http://www.rap-al.org">www.rap-al.org</a> <b>Contacto:</b> <a href="mailto:rapal.uruguay@gmail.com">rapal.uruguay@gmail.com</a> . No fue invitado a ninguna actividad de Escazú.
<b>3. Fundación Vida Silvestre Uruguay</b>
<b>Descripción:</b> Esta organización tiene como objetivo la conservación de la biodiversidad, especialmente en lo que respecta a especies autóctonas y sus hábitats. Trabajan en colaboración con gobiernos y otras entidades de conservación. <b>Áreas de acción:</b> Conservación de especies, restauración de hábitats, desarrollo de políticas públicas ambientales. No tenían recursos para asistir a un taller en Argentina relacionado a Escazú. <b>Sitio web:</b> <a href="http://www.vidasilvestre.org.uy">www.vidasilvestre.org.uy</a> <b>Contacto:</b> <a href="mailto:info@vidasilvestre.org.uy">info@vidasilvestre.org.uy</a>
<b>4. Cambio Verde</b>
<b>Descripción:</b> Cambio Verde es una organización no gubernamental que se dedica a la promoción de la sostenibilidad, la eficiencia energética, la justicia ambiental y la protección de los ecosistemas en Uruguay. Trabajan en la promoción de políticas públicas y en la concientización de la sociedad. <b>Áreas de acción:</b> Energías renovables, cambio climático, consumo responsable, políticas públicas ambientales. Opinión muy favorable de la CEPAL y de su equipo de asesores. Participo en unas conferencias en Montevideo. <b>Sitio web:</b> <a href="http://www.cambioverde.org.uy">www.cambioverde.org.uy</a> <b>Contacto:</b> <a href="mailto:info@cambioverde.org.uy">info@cambioverde.org.uy</a>
<b>México</b>
<b>1. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)</b>
<b>Descripción:</b> CONABIO es una institución del gobierno mexicano encargada de promover el conocimiento, conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad. Su misión es generar y coordinar información científica sobre la biodiversidad del país. Sin conocimiento de Escazú. <b>Áreas de acción:</b> Biodiversidad, conservación de especies, investigación científica, desarrollo de políticas públicas. <b>Sitio web:</b> <a href="http://www.conabio.gob.mx">www.conabio.gob.mx</a>
<b>2. WWF México (World Wide Fund for Nature)</b>

**Descripción:** WWF México es la rama nacional de WWF, una de las organizaciones más grandes y reconocidas a nivel mundial en la conservación del medioambiente. Trabajan en áreas como la conservación de especies, la lucha contra el cambio climático y la protección de los océanos. **Áreas de acción:** Cambio climático, conservación de ecosistemas y especies, uso sostenible de los recursos naturales. **Sitio web:** [www.wwf.org.mx](http://www.wwf.org.mx)

### 3. Semarnat (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales)

**Descripción:** La Semarnat es la secretaría del gobierno mexicano encargada de la gestión del medioambiente, los recursos naturales y la sostenibilidad. A través de políticas públicas, busca la conservación de los ecosistemas y el aprovechamiento responsable de los recursos naturales. **Áreas de acción:** Políticas públicas ambientales, manejo de recursos naturales, protección de áreas naturales protegidas. Participación activa en Escazú en talleres y foros. **Sitio web:** [www.gob.mx/semarnat](http://www.gob.mx/semarnat)

## Ecuador:

### 1. Fundación EcoCiencia

**Descripción:** EcoCiencia es una organización no gubernamental que trabaja en la conservación de la biodiversidad de Ecuador, con énfasis en las especies endémicas y la protección de ecosistemas clave como la Amazonía y los Andes. **Áreas de acción:** Conservación de especies, manejo sostenible de los recursos naturales, cambio climático, educación ambiental. **Sitio web:** [www.ecociencia.org.ec](http://www.ecociencia.org.ec)

### 2. Fundación Pachamama

**Descripción:** La Fundación Pachamama trabaja en la conservación de la Amazonía ecuatoriana y la defensa de los derechos de las comunidades indígenas frente a la explotación de recursos naturales. Promueven la justicia social y ambiental. Conoce, Escazú, falta de fondos impidieron estar en talleres y foros. **Áreas de acción:** Defensa de los derechos indígenas, protección de la Amazonía, desarrollo sostenible, lucha contra la minería ilegal. **Sitio web:** [www.pachamama.org.ec](http://www.pachamama.org.ec)

### 3. Acción Ecológica

**Descripción:** Acción Ecológica es una organización de base que trabaja en la defensa del medioambiente en Ecuador desde 1989. Han sido pioneros en la lucha contra la minería y otros proyectos extractivos que amenazan los ecosistemas del país. Conocen Escazú pero no han participado en ninguna actividad porque es muy burocrática. **Áreas de acción:** Lucha contra la minería, defensa de los recursos hídricos, justicia ambiental, educación y sensibilización. **Sitio web:** [www.accionecologica.org](http://www.accionecologica.org)

### 4. Fundación Yasuní

**Descripción:** La Fundación Yasuní se enfoca en la conservación del Parque Nacional Yasuní, una de las áreas con mayor biodiversidad del planeta, en la región amazónica de Ecuador. Su trabajo incluye la protección de especies y el impulso de alternativas sostenibles para las comunidades locales. Han participado en un par de talleres y han estado en Panamá, con sus propios recursos. **Áreas de acción:** Conservación de la biodiversidad, protección del Yasuní, promoción de un modelo de desarrollo sostenible para las comunidades amazónicas. **Sitio web:** [www.fundacionyasuni.org](http://www.fundacionyasuni.org)

## Saint Lucia

### 1. Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT)

**Description:** Founded in 1975, the Saint Lucia National Trust is a non-profit organization that works for the conservation of the country's natural and cultural heritage. Its mission is to protect biodiversity and sites of historical and cultural interest on the island. Areas of action: Conservation of natural areas, protection of biodiversity, preservation of heritage sites, environmental education. Website: [www.slunatrast.org](http://www.slunatrast.org). No information about Escazu.

<b>Sitio web:</b> <a href="http://www.slunatrust.org">www.slunatrust.org</a>
<b>2. The Saint Lucia Forest and Lands Conservation (SLFLC)</b>
<b>Description:</b> The SLFLC is an organization focused on the conservation of the forests and lands of Saint Lucia, promoting the restoration of ecosystems and the protection of endemic fauna and flora. They also work on climate change education and awareness. Areas of action: Forest conservation, climate change, reforestation, biodiversity protection. Website: <a href="http://www.slflc.org">www.slflc.org</a> (may not be up to date, as the organization has a social media presence primarily)
<b>3. Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)</b>
<b>Description:</b> Although not an organization exclusively from Saint Lucia, CANARI has a significant focus on the Caribbean region, including Eastern Caribbean islands such as Saint Lucia. CANARI promotes the sustainable management of natural resources and community participation in decision-making on the environment. Areas of action: Sustainable management of natural resources, community participation, conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems, public policies. Website: <a href="http://www.canari.org">www.canari.org</a>
<b>4. Saint Lucia Conservation Fund</b>
<b>Description:</b> This organization aims to fund environmental conservation projects in Saint Lucia, supporting ecological restoration initiatives, biodiversity protection, and climate change mitigation. They also foster collaboration between government, local communities, and international organizations. They know Escazu, and sent two delegate to talk in Saint Lucia. Areas of action: Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, protection of endangered species, sustainable development. Website: <a href="http://www.stluciacfund.org">www.stluciacfund.org</a>

These organizations are active in protecting the environment in Saint Lucia and in the Caribbean region in general. Its efforts include biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and raising public awareness of climate change and sustainability.

For further reference, a detailed contact list of these institutions and their representatives is attached.

	Nombre	Web	Contacto
Uruguay	Red de Acción	: <a href="http://www.rap-al.org">www.rap-al.org</a>	<a href="mailto:rapal.uruguay@gmail.com">rapal.uruguay@gmail.com</a> María Elena Rozas <a href="mailto:rapal.contacto@gmail.com">rapal.contacto@gmail.com</a>
	Fundación Vida Silvestre	: <a href="http://www.vidasilvestre.org.uy">www.vidasilvestre.org.uy</a>	: <a href="mailto:info@vidasilvestre.org.uy">info@vidasilvestre.org.uy</a>
	Cambio Verde	: <a href="http://www.cambioverde.org.uy">www.cambioverde.org.uy</a>	: <a href="mailto:info@cambioverde.org.uy">info@cambioverde.org.uy</a>
México	CONABIO	: <a href="http://www.conabio.gob.mx">www.conabio.gob.mx</a>	No funciona
	WWF México	: <a href="http://www.wwf.org.mx">www.wwf.org.mx</a>	Esperando
	Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	: <a href="http://www.gob.mx/semarnat">www.gob.mx/semarnat</a>	Esperando
Ecuador	EcoCiencia	: <a href="http://www.ecociencia.org.ec">www.ecociencia.org.ec</a>	
	Fundación Pachamama	: <a href="http://www.pachamama.org.ec">www.pachamama.org.ec</a>	<a href="mailto:bpaez@pachamama.org.ec">bpaez@pachamama.org.ec</a> <a href="mailto:jfelix@pachamama.org.ec">jfelix@pachamama.org.ec</a> <a href="mailto:bbonilla@pachamama.org.ec">bbonilla@pachamama.org.ec</a> <a href="mailto:imorelli@pachamama.org.ec">imorelli@pachamama.org.ec</a>
	Acción Ecológica	: <a href="http://www.accioneologica.org">www.accioneologica.org</a>	<a href="mailto:informacion@accioneologica.org">informacion@accioneologica.org</a>

	<b>Yasuní</b>	<a href="http://www.fundacionyasuni.org">www.fundacionyasuni.org</a>	No interesa
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	<b>Saint Lucia National Trust</b>	: <a href="http://www.slunatrust.org">www.slunatrust.org</a>	Esperando
	<b>The Saint Lucia Forest and Lands Conservation (SLFLC)</b>	: <a href="http://www.slflc.org">www.slflc.org</a>	No interesa
	<b>Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)</b>	<a href="http://www.canari.org">www.canari.org</a>	Esperando
	<b>Saint Lucia Conservation Fund</b>	<a href="http://www.stluciafund.org">www.stluciafund.org</a>	NA

## ANNEX V. LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

The following bibliography compiles key documents and resources related to the Escazú Agreement and its implementation, encompassing contributions from governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
<b>11th Tranche Development Account project</b> “Enhancing Coordination, Coherence and Effectiveness in Implementing the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean”
<b>Annual reports</b> of advance
<b>DA project criteria</b>
<b>Documents available at the ECLAS Data Base</b> (Microsoft Team provided by the Evaluaiton Unit)
<b>Evaluation surveys</b>
<b>National and regional policies</b> and strategies: Peru, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Belize
<b>Project 1617Z</b> “Addressing critical socio-environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean”
<b>Project Document 13th Tranche</b> of the Development Account
<b>News Paper Publications</b>
<b>Reports</b> from technical assistance missions
<b>Sustainable Management of Mining Resources in the Andean Countries</b> that ECLAC executes in conjunction with the German Agency for International Cooperation
<b>The project document</b>
<b>Workshops and meetings reports</b>
<a href="http://www.observatoryp10.cepal.org">www.observatoryp10.cepal.org</a>
<b>1. Governmental Reports and Official Documents</b>
<b>United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).</b> (2021). <i>Implementation Guide of the Escazú Agreement</i> .
<b>Government of Belize.</b> (2019). <i>Stakeholder Engagement for Development of the Escazú Agreement Implementation Roadmap</i> . This report outlines Belize’s efforts to engage diverse stakeholders in developing a national implementation plan for the Escazú Agreement.
<b>2. Civil Society Publications</b>
<b>Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).</b> (2024). <i>Advancing the Implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Promoting Access to Justice in Climate Issues</i> .
<b>World Resources Institute (WRI).</b> (2023). <i>The Escazú Agreement: Seeking Rights to Information, Participation, and Justice for the Most Vulnerable</i> .
<b>3. Academic Articles and Research Papers</b>
Rodríguez-Rivera, L. E. (2023). <i>The Landmark Escazú Agreement: An Opportunity to Integrate Democracy, Human Rights, and Transboundary Conservation</i> .
Bebbington, A., & Bury, J. (2021). <i>Environmental Rights and Conflicts over Raw Materials in Latin America: The Escazú Agreement and the Future of Environmental Governance</i> .
<b>4. Private Sector and Multi-Stakeholder Resources</b>
Open Government Partnership (OGP). (2023).
World Justice Project (WJP) & Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). (2023).