

EVALUATION RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW-UP PLAN

Evaluation Title: 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”

Implementing Division/Office: Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC

Date: May 2025

Recommendations and proposed actions		ECLAC response and anticipated actions	Responsible Entity (Division/Unit)	Estimated target date for completion
Rec. 1	Enhance Engagement of the Public further			
	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.	ECLAC has taken particular actions to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in the regional process after the project concluded. For example, during the Third Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters specific attention was placed on women to support the development of the regional guide on gender and on Caribbean defenders, including Indigenous Peoples, youth, local and grassroots communities. Positive actions will continue to be taken in subsequent regional meetings.	Escazú Agreement Secretariat	Ongoing
Rec. 2	Expand and Sustain Financial Resources in target and no target countries			
	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.	The current UN financial and liquidity crisis has had a significant impact on the Secretariat's resources and capacity to meet its mandate. A specific session on financial arrangements is expected to take part in COP4 of the Escazú Agreement (April 2026). Discussions with potential donors are ongoing, but none of these have covered core activities of the Secretariat so far and some donors have reduced funding.	Escazú Agreement Secretariat	Ongoing
Rec. 3	Promote Political Buy-in and Raise Additional Awareness			
	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.	ECLAC is promoting the Escazú Agreement in non-Parties upon request and disseminating the process in regional and subregional meetings. Activities are expected in the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago in the coming months, for example. Participation in the Regional Forum of Environment Ministers as well as UNFCCC COP30 will also include dialogues with authorities of non-Parties on the Escazú Agreement.	Escazú Agreement Secretariat	Ongoing
Rec. 4	Within the public, increase the engagement of the Private Sector and linkages with Corporate Responsibility			
	1. Organize regional dialogues with stakeholders from the private sector to increase the engagement of a broader base aligning Escazú'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.	As part of the development methodology of national implementation roadmaps, particular efforts are being made to engage the private sector. ECLAC organized a session on the Escazú Agreement and its benefits for businesses at the LAC business and human rights forum in April 2025 and will strive to intensify linkages with the private sector, particularly mining.	Escazú Agreement Secretariat	Ongoing
Rec. 5	Strengthen Legal Frameworks and Enforcement			
	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.	ECLAC has continued to support countries in the implementation of their national plans and roadmaps. In particular, a national activity following up on the implementation of the roadmap was organized in Ecuador in May 2025 and an activity is planned in Argentina in September 2025. Through the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, ECLAC is also assisting Chile, Saint Lucia and Panama in priority actions included in their roadmaps.	Escazú Agreement Secretariat	Ongoing

Rec. 6	Improve Regional Coordination and Knowledge Sharing			
	<p>1. Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and best practice exchange through regional platforms and technical working groups.</p> <p>2. Harmonize data standards, legal definitions, and participatory processes across countries to strengthen coherence.</p> <p>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.</p>	The Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean is constantly being updated. In 2025-2026, subject to availability of resources, new functionalities and materials will be developed to build capacities in countries on environmental access rights. In addition, in preparation for COP4, the Secretariat is conducting research on PRTRs, gender mainstreaming and public participation in EIA processes highlighting good practices and fostering peer learning.	Escazú Agreement Secretariat	Ongoing
Rec. 7	Strengthen Regional Action to Protect Environmental Defenders More Effectively			
	<p>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.</p> <p>2. Continue to training key public officials in the protection of environmental defenders.</p> <p>3. Support the strengthening of national protection frameworks and promote accountability through investigation and sanction of attacks and violations against defenders.</p>	The Secretariat is supporting the ad hoc working group on article 9 in the development of an implementation programme for the regional action plan. Regional Forums will continue to be held every two years (next one to take place in 2027). A regional assessment and guidelines for national protection mechanisms are expected to be prepared in the coming years.	Escazú Agreement Secretariat	Ongoing