

United Nations Development Account

Terminal Evaluation of 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”
(2021–2024)*

Report completed: May 2025

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Development Account
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



UNITED NATIONS



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The support provided by the project stakeholders at ECLAC, all of whom are involved in the implementation of this project, is gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks are owed to the Development Account 2124P project manager, David Barrio, Legal Officer of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, for his cooperation throughout the evaluation process and assistance in the review of this report. The valuable support and contributions of the technical advisers and staff of ECLAC subregional headquarters and country offices are greatly appreciated. The evaluator extends his gratitude to the project partners, collaborators, participants and beneficiaries for their availability and valuable insights shared in the evaluation exercise.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Executive summary

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” (hereinafter referred to as the project) was designed to enhance the capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the areas of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. This initiative aimed to support the full and effective implementation of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) as a key driver for promoting environmental governance, sustainable development and human rights. The project was implemented from January 2021 to June 2024 under the framework of the United Nations Development Account. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) served as the primary implementing entity, collaborating with various United Nations agencies, regional organizations and national governments to achieve 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 Latin America and the Caribbean. Specifically, the evaluation aims to:

- ◆ Assess the effectiveness of the role of ECLAC in providing technical assistance, capacity-building and stakeholder engagement mechanisms.
- ◆ Examine the efficiency of resource allocation and coordination mechanisms in supporting the Escazú Agreement.
- ◆ Assess the relevance of the Escazú 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 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 implementation of the Escazú Agreement.

Evaluation methodology

A mixed-methods approach was used for this evaluation, 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 Escazú Agreement.

- **Stakeholder consultations.** Interviews and surveys with government representatives, civil society organizations, Indigenous groups ¹ and international agencies involved in implementation of the Escazú Agreement.
- **Country references.** The “case/country studies” approach that was initially proposed was adapted to focus on analysing “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 progress in implementing the Agreement. 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 assessment drew primarily on a few subregional experiences and cross-country analyses, 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 to the context of regional environmental governance and human rights. It addressed critical needs among countries seeking to ratify and implement the Escazú Agreement by 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 relevance.
- **Efficiency.** The project team 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’s intended outputs –including the development of the implementation guide of the Escazú Agreement, the preparation of national road maps and the promotion of regional dialogue through participation in meetings of the Conference of Parties– were successfully achieved. These accomplishments contributed significantly to advancing the implementation of the Escazú Agreement.

¹ Interviews were conducted in Peru, specifically in Tambopata, and with a defence lawyer from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru representing Indigenous associations such as Fundación Solidaridad Integrada para el Ascenso Social (SIPAS), Machiguenga, and associations in the valley of the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro rivers and Amazon regions. In Mexico, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare provided insights into the situation of Indigenous groups, as well as women’s and youth organizations. Additionally, a representative of the Yasuní foundation in Ecuador was interviewed, contributing further perspectives on Indigenous issues.

While the depth of implementation varied across countries owing to differing political, social and institutional contexts, a strong foundation was established for continued progress and adaptation to local realities.

- **Sustainability:** While a solid basis for long-term impact was established under the project, sustainability will depend on continued political commitment, adequate 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 Latin American and Caribbean countries and with international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While the project team promoted synergies across United Nations agencies, national governments and regional entities, the project would have benefited from stronger integration of cross-cutting themes such as gender equality and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

◆ **Conclusions**

The results achieved through the project 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. **Further enhance public engagement.** 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 awareness.** Convene regional forums and work with regional bodies to mainstream priorities of the Escazú Agreement into broader development agendas.
4. **Increase private sector engagement and linkages with corporate responsibility.** Organize regional dialogues with the private sector to align sustainable business practices with the Escazu Agreement's transparency goals.
5. **Strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement.** Support countries in harmonizing national legislation with principles of the Escazú Agreement, 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.** Enhance national protection frameworks and promote accountability through the investigation and prosecution of crimes.

◆ **Lessons learned**

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

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” (hereinafter referred to as the project) was designed to enhance the capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the areas of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. This initiative aimed to support the full and effective implementation of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) as a key driver for promoting environmental governance, sustainable development and human rights. The project was implemented from January 2021 to June 2024 under the framework of the United Nations Development Account. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) served as the primary implementing entity, collaborating with various United Nations agencies, regional organizations and national governments to achieve 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. It was conducted at the conclusion of the project cycle to determine the extent to which the planned objectives and expected outcomes were achieved. Given the growing emphasis on environmental rights and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, this assessment seeks to generate evidence-based insights to inform future United Nations initiatives and cooperation programmes.

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

Evaluation purpose and objectives

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

- Measure the extent to which the project has contributed to improving environmental governance in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in terms of transparency, inclusion 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 is based on a results-oriented approach, applying evaluation criteria of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): 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 project results.

Primary users and audience

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

- **ECLAC and other United Nations 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 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 Latin America and the Caribbean.

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. Project description

2.1 Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States, charts a strategic pathway towards 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 4 March 2018. This agreement emerged from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), becoming the region's first environmental treaty and the world's first treaty requiring States to 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 benefit from 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 have 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 for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Promoting access rights and engaging civil society, including non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, young people, women, academic institutions and other stakeholders, is crucial to strengthening the ability of governments to address environmental issues effectively. The Escazú Agreement is shaped 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, by ensuring equal access and participation for marginalized groups like women, young people, 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 *Global Gender and Environment Outlook 2016*² identified gender-disaggregated data gaps 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,³ further underscoring the need to prioritize vulnerable populations in environmental policy.

Despite achievements at the regional level, 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 Escazú Agreement's objectives.

² United Nations Environment Programme. (2016). *Global Gender and Environment Outlook 2016*. <https://doi.org/10.18356/0b979453-en>.

³ See Casas Varez, M. (2017). La transversalización del enfoque de género en las políticas públicas frente al cambio en América Latina. *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2017/19). Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Some countries face acute capacity gaps, while others, particularly small island developing States, require targeted support.

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

The objective of the Development Account 2124P project “Enhancing access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean to build back greener, fairer and better” was to reduce regional disparities by building capacities across the region for effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement. Activities were undertaken at the national, subregional and regional levels, with a focus on promoting policy coherence, coordination and multilevel decision-making. In doing so, these efforts contributed to the design and implementation of more effective sustainable development policies, strategies and instruments.

The project’s relevance has been amplified in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which highlighted the close interdependence between the region’s societies and the environment, while also exacerbating existing inequalities, including those related to environmental governance. It also underscored the critical need for sound, participatory environmental responses. In uncertain times, traditional approaches have proven insufficient, reinforcing the need for robust, transparent and multi-stakeholder partnerships to tackle urgent challenges. The Escazú Agreement offers a framework for post-pandemic recovery, guiding efforts towards 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 United Nations Secretary-General has stated, the Escazú Agreement is a valuable tool for people-centred, nature-based solutions. By ensuring transparency, access to justice and public participation, the Escazú Agreement provides a framework for resilient, inclusive environmental governance in the post-pandemic era.

The project is aligned with key global frameworks, including the General Assembly resolution on global solidarity to fight COVID-19 (A/RES/74/270), the Secretary-General’s report *Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*, and *A UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19*. It aims to reduce regional disparities by strengthening national, subregional and regional capacities for effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement. Through the promotion of policy coherence, coordination and multilevel decision-making, the project contributes to the design and implementation of more effective sustainable development strategies and instruments.

2.2 Project objectives and outcomes

Key features of the project

- The project under evaluation is part of the projects approved under the thirteenth tranche (2020–2023) of the Development Account. It was implemented by the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC.
- The project duration was approximately three and a half years, with activities starting in January 2021 and an anticipated completion date of June 2024.⁴
- The logic of the project, against which results and impact are assessed, includes an overall objective, a set of outcomes and **indicators of achievement**. Together with the **theory of change**, these elements have served as reference points to assess the project's effectiveness and relevance.

Project objective

As stated in the project document, the objective is to:

Enhance 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.

Expected outcomes

Outcome 1. Strengthened capacities of governments in four selected target countries to meet the obligations established under the Escazú Agreement.

Outcome 2. 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.

⁴ The official project completion date was 24 June 2024; however, certain implementation-related activities continued until early 2025.

The planned outputs under each outcome are presented below.

Planned output under outcome 1. Government capacity improved

Planned output 1.1. Organize one multi-stakeholder seminar to share good practices and experiences, strengthen the capacities of government officials regarding environmental access rights, and prepare and discuss the regional assessment on the basis of discussions on common challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities identified.

Planned output 1.2. Update the regional assessment based on common challenges, needs and good practices to support implementation of environmental access rights, enhancing the capacities of governments in the region to meet the obligations of the Escazú Agreement.

Planned output 1.3. Strengthen the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean by expanding it with key information and resources to support national implementation and improving its visibility and use across countries in the region, and contribute to awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts of relevant stakeholders, in line with article 12 (clearing house) of the Escazú Agreement.

Planned output 1.4. Prepare different promotional materials to raise public awareness of environmental access rights and the Escazú Agreement, with particular focus on persons and groups in vulnerable situations, aiming to educate the general public about their environmental access rights.

Planned outputs under outcome 2. Capacity of stakeholders improved

Planned output 2.1. Deliver an e-learning course on the Escazú Agreement to raise awareness and strengthen understanding of obligations and implications among regional and national stakeholders, targeting government officials responsible for implementing international obligations.

Planned output 2.2. Prepare accessible versions of the Escazú Agreement and implementation materials in different languages and alternative formats to promote knowledge of rights and dissemination across all sectors of society, including persons and groups in vulnerable situations, such as versions for young people, for persons with disabilities or in Indigenous languages.

Planned output 2.3. Conduct two national multi-stakeholder participatory capacity-building workshops in each selected target country to strengthen the capacities of various actors and provide technical assistance to support implementation of recommended measures and actions.

Planned output 2.4. Organize one regional and two subregional meetings (one for Latin America and one for the Caribbean) with relevant stakeholders to discuss common challenges, exchange good practices and share lessons learned on implementation of the Escazú Agreement at the national level, building on country-level activities.

Planned output 2.5. Conduct technical advisory missions, as required, to assist target countries in assessing needs and implementing workplans for action.

2.3 Project strategies and key activities

Project interventions and response strategy

The project was designed to support the functioning of the Escazú Agreement at the regional level and in target countries through a response strategy associated with several key dimensions:

- **Alignment with the 2030 Agenda.** Contributes to sustainable development by addressing regional environmental challenges and fostering social cohesion.
- **Human rights focus.** Promotes the protection of vulnerable groups and environmental defenders, ensuring inclusive participation in environmental decision-making.
- **Capacity-building.** Supports countries in strengthening national capacities for the effective implementation of access rights.
- **Implementation challenges.** Addresses disparities in national capacities that affect the effectiveness of the Escazú Agreement.
- **Multilateral cooperation.** Encourages collaboration, policy coherence and transparent decision-making at national, subregional and regional levels.
- **Relevance in post-COVID-19 recovery.** Provides a framework for green recovery, addressing growing inequalities and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- **Long-term impact.** Seeks to contribute inclusive, sustainable and transparent development, with a focus on vulnerable groups and environmental justice.

In addition, the project includes targeted interventions to address specific environmental challenges while strengthening access to knowledge and information among vulnerable groups. These efforts are focused on building stronger and more resilient institutions that enable civil society participation grounded in democratic values and principles. The interventions are informed by a context analysis and needs assessment and include the following:

- Offering solutions to critical environmental challenges.
- Strengthening the capacities of vulnerable groups.
- Reinforcing democratic principles and supporting the development of responsive public policies.
- Addressing environmental threats, including the unsustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change.
- Fostering synergies and facilitating the exchange of information and good practices.
- Building capacities and mobilizing resources at local, national and regional levels.
- Promoting policy coherence, coordination and transparent, multilevel decision-making in support of sustainable development strategies.

Project activities

A series of activities was designed to support achievement of the expected outputs and objectives, including the following:

- Seminars, training activities, identification of needs, priorities and opportunities.
- Updates to regional assessments that address needs and good practices related to capacities to meet Escazú Agreement obligations.
- Strengthening of the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean to support awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts.
- Preparation of educational materials on access rights and the Escazú Agreement.
- Delivery of an e-learning course on the Escazú Agreement to raise awareness.
- Preparation of implementation materials in multiple languages.
- Delivery of participatory capacity-building workshops.
- Organization of meetings with relevant stakeholders.
- Organization of technical advisory missions, as required.

Project outputs

As a result of implementation of the activities planned in the project document, the four progress reports reviewed (covering the period 2021–2024) confirm that all project outputs were fully accomplished. The reports present a range of outputs, summarized in table 1 and classified according to the four reporting periods.

Table 1
Project outputs accomplished

Progress report 1
Output 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The draft implementation guide was finalized. National capacity assessments on environmental information were undertaken in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia.• Initial discussions were held with representatives of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.• In Argentina, Belize, Mexico and Uruguay, national activities were organized and strategies to support the development of national implementation plans were explored.
Output 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation materials were developed, including illustrative materials.• The Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean was enhanced with a new layout and updated substantive content and resources, including graphs and maps.
Other actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following the deposit of the instruments of ratification of Argentina and Mexico on 22 January 2021, the Escazú Agreement entered into force on 22 April 2021.• At that stage, the Escazú Agreement had 12 Parties and 24 signatory countries.

Progress report 2

Output 1

- National capacity assessments on environmental information in Eastern Caribbean countries were expanded to encompass all independent member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).
- National workshops and analyses were conducted in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Road maps for the development of national implementation plans were prepared in Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.
- Additional resources were mobilized to include Argentina and Chile.
- In Colombia and Honduras, national activities were organized to strengthen access rights.

Output 2

- The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in Santiago and focused on capacity-building activities.
- The first Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Quito.
- Capacity-building activities relating to article 9 of the Escazú Agreement were delivered through 10 working groups.

Other actions

- Chile deposited its instrument of accession and Colombia granted parliamentary approval for ratification in October 2022.
- At that stage, the Escazú Agreement had 13 Parties and 24 signatory countries.

Progress report 3

Output 1

- The road maps for Argentina and Ecuador were finalized.
- Actions were undertaken to advance national capacity assessments on environmental information in Eastern Caribbean countries, covering all OECS member States.
- The operating system and interface of the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean were upgraded, from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9.
- The Observatory's content and resources were strengthened, with expanded information on biodiversity and related areas, such as forestry, ecosystems, protected, coastal and marine areas, and wildlife laws and policies.

Other actions

- Belize and Grenada deposited their instruments of ratification.
- At that stage, the Escazú Agreement had 15 Parties and 24 signatory countries.

Progress report 4

Output 1

- A decision on national implementation was adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement.
- An implementation guide was produced in Portuguese.
- A joint assessment was completed by ECLAC and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on case law related to access to environmental information in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Metrics were compiled on the use of the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean (December 2023–January 2025).
- An updated infographic on biodiversity and the Escazú Agreement was produced.

Output 2

- A road map for implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Saint Lucia was prepared, including examples of implementation measures.
- Road maps for implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Uruguay were prepared, including examples of implementation measures.
- An e-learning course on Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Escazú Agreement was delivered.
- National workshops were conducted in Belize and Uruguay.
- A seminar was held for public officials from the Caribbean Community.

Source: Prepared by the author.

Achievement of expected outcomes

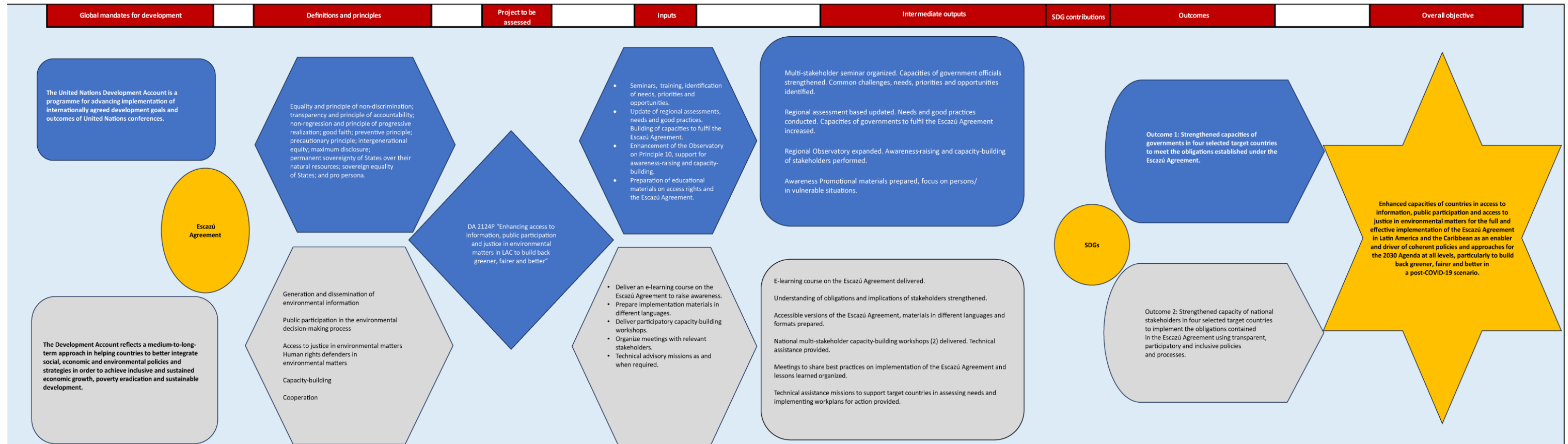
National capacities in access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters were strengthened through the project, thereby supporting the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement in the target countries. Both outcomes [were achieved: (1) strengthening the capacities of governments in four selected countries to fulfil their commitments under the Escazú Agreement and (2) strengthening national stakeholders' ability to implement these obligations through transparent, participatory and inclusive policies and processes.

Significant progress was made over the first three and a half years of implementation, with activities contributing effectively to achievement of these objectives. The final analysis provides strong evidence that the project objective was achieved in the four selected target countries, as well as in other countries that engaged actively in project activities. In addition, national stakeholders demonstrated an increased ability to implement the provisions of the Escazú Agreement, supported by strengthened 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 how the project helped to foster a more transparent, inclusive and rights-based approach to environmental governance across the region.

The theory of change used for this assessment is presented as both a flow chart and a diagram (see diagram 1 below), illustrating the relationships and linkages between all project components and enhancing transparency in the evaluation process.

Diagram 1
Theory of change for implementation of the Escazú Agreement



Source: Prepared by the author.

2.4 Target countries and beneficiaries

Although this project was designed to benefit the entire Latin American and Caribbean region, a dual approach was adopted 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 national-level activities enabled an in-depth examination of country-specific challenges and opportunities related to implementation of the core principles of the Escazú Agreement: access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice.

To ensure a strategic and impactful approach, four focus countries –Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay– were initially identified as project case studies and potential regional models. Given delays in Mexico and Uruguay during implementation, two additional countries (Argentina and Chile) were considered. As a result, the final target countries were Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Saint Lucia. Selection was based on several criteria, including demonstrated commitment to the Escazú Agreement, national demand for technical assistance, institutional readiness and potential to influence broader regional efforts. By concentrating efforts on these countries, the project team aimed to generate valuable insights, good practices and replicable models that could inform policy development and implementation across the region.

The project team also adopted a prioritization strategy to guide the development of national implementation road maps, providing a structured pathway towards the full realization of the Escazú Agreement. Project support extended beyond the original target of four countries and the groundwork for two additional national road maps was established, reflecting strong demand and increasing regional momentum. Key implementation highlights included:

- **Multi-stakeholder consultations** conducted in each participating country, fostering inclusive dialogue and aligning road maps with national priorities and local contexts.
- **Tailored technical assistance** delivered to institutions and civil society actors, including legal reviews, policy gap analyses 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 principles of the Escazú Agreement** into national policies and institutional frameworks, particularly in areas related to access to environmental information and public participation.
- **Strengthened collaboration** among government entities, civil society and other stakeholders, contributing to more coherent and participatory environmental governance.

The main highlights in each participating country were as follows:

- **Argentina** completed its road map in November 2023, supported through a partnership with the World Bank and aligned with the hosting of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- **Belize and Mexico** made significant progress towards the completion of their national road maps, which were expected to be finalized in 2025 following national elections and additional consultations.

- **Chile** finalized its road map in September 2024 with support from ECLAC, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- **Ecuador** was the first country to finalize its road map (April 2023), benefiting from early engagement and serving as the pilot for the ECLAC seven-step methodology.
- **Saint Lucia** became the first Caribbean country to adopt a road map (April 2024), with support from OECS and recognition for its regional leadership.
- **Uruguay**, although initially identified as a target country, published its road map in October 2024 following intergovernmental consultations and delays linked to the electoral calendar.

Additional countries became actively engaged in implementation, which was incorporated into the agenda of the Conference of the Parties, and the subject of a decision adopted at its third meeting. This reflects the high level of regional interest and participation, further expanding the reach and potential impact of the project.

2.5 Project partners and other key stakeholders

The Escazú Agreement upholds democratic principles by emphasizing broad participation from governments, institutions and the general public. It also clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in its implementation.

As stated in the project document, the main stakeholders include regional, subregional (e.g. OECS) and national governments, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and regional and multilateral organizations, in accordance with national priorities and contexts. Different levels of participation are associated with each stakeholder group, ranging from high to low, as shown in diagram 2.

More specifically, and for the purposes of this evaluation, the Escazú Agreement provides the following definitions:

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.

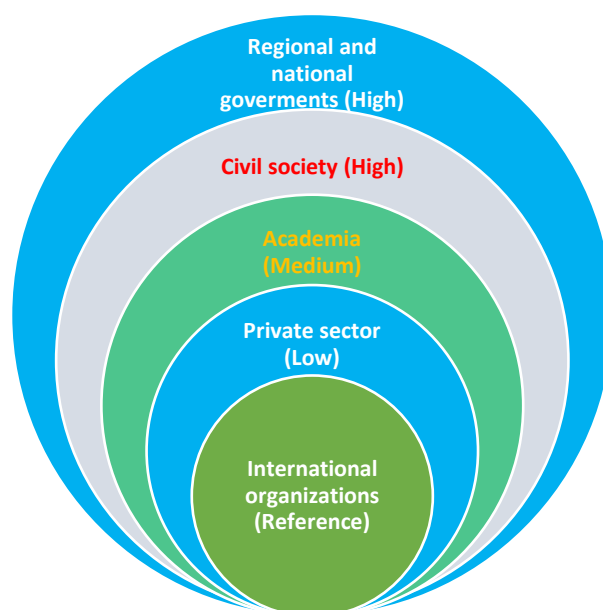
Article 7

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.

Diagram 2
Project stakeholders and associated level of participation



Source: Prepared by the author.

The identification and participation of the beneficiaries took place throughout the implementation period and are documented in project reports prepared by ECLAC management.

In relation to the strengthening of national government capacities to meet obligations under the Escazú Agreement, activities were carried out in countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay.

The following international organizations participated in multiple activities and provided additional funding to support complementary or supplementary interventions: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), OECS, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP.

In the second year of implementation, two additional countries were included (Argentina and Chile) and the World Bank, Expertise France and the Ford Foundation also participated and contributed funding.

Stakeholder participation

The level of stakeholder participation in activities related to implementation of the Escazú Agreement was notably high, as reflected in data provided by ECLAC and additional estimates undertaken as part of this evaluation. The project team successfully engaged with a diverse and representative range of stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

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

In addition to strengthening the legitimacy and impact of the project, broad and inclusive stakeholder participation also enhanced knowledge-sharing, fostered regional collaboration and reinforced the long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

A more detailed analysis of stakeholder participation is presented in chapters on efficiency and effectiveness of this evaluation.

2.6 Resources

The project budget was funded through an approved Development Account, which served as the core financial resource for executing planned activities. The budget was strategically allocated to key areas, including capacity-building initiatives, stakeholder engagement, technical assistance and policy development, with the objective of enhancing access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

In addition to Development Account funding, additional human, financial and in-kind contributions were provided, significantly expanding the project's scope and effectiveness. These contributions included the following:

1. **Extrabudgetary contributions.** Various donor agencies, international organizations and partner institutions provided additional financial support to complement Development Account funding. These funds were used to support specific interventions, such as regional dialogues, workshops and legal assessments, contributing to broader and more effective implementation.
2. **Regular programme for technical cooperation.** Resources from this programme were used to support **technical cooperation activities**, including expert consultations, knowledge-sharing platforms and country-specific advisory services. These funds facilitated tailored responses to national implementation challenges.

3. **In-kind contributions.** Several government agencies, civil society organizations and academic institutions contributed through the provision of human resources, logistical support and technical expertise. In-kind contributions included meeting spaces, research materials, translation services and staff time, helping to 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 alignment with regional priorities and sustainability goals.

Overall, the combination of Development Account funding and additional financial and in-kind contributions enabled an expanded scope of activities, improved implementation efficiency and substantial progress in strengthening the capacities of target countries and stakeholders to fulfil their commitments under the Escazú Agreement.

Tables 2 and 3 and figure 1 summarize the contributions made by other donors and international organizations. A more detailed assessment is presented in the chapters on efficiency and effectiveness of this evaluation.

Table 2
Planned and actual expenditure and implementation rate (2021-2024)

		2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Planned	Planned expenditure (Dollars)	162 250	227 150	227 150	32 450	649 000
	Implementation rate (Percentages)	25	60	95	100	100
	Actual expenditure (Dollars)	77 049	111 534	280 917	171 632	641 132
Actual	Implementation rate (Percentages)	12	29	72	99	99

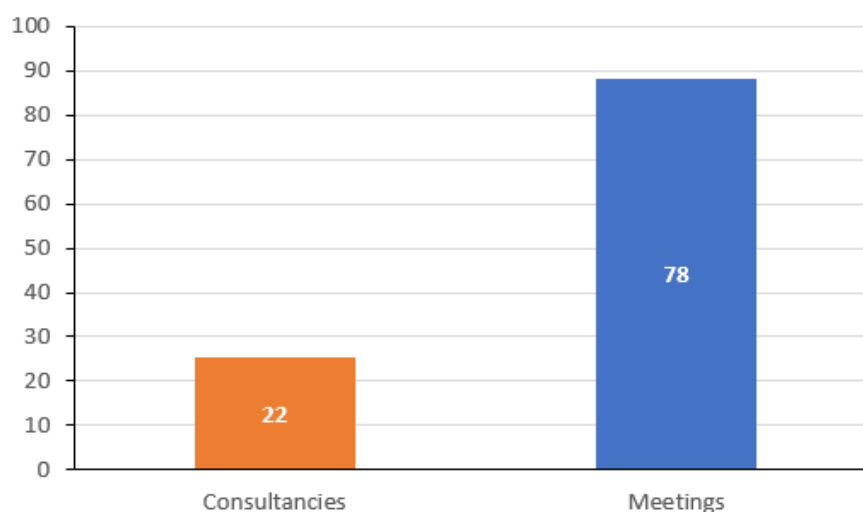
Source: Prepared by the author.

Table 3
Composition of donor contributions and total available budget

Composition of donor contributions		
	Contribution amount (Dollars)	Share of total donor contributions (Percentages)
Financial	362 400	80
In-kind	92 000	20
Total donor contributions	454 400	100
Total available budget		
Source	Contribution amount (Dollars)	Share of total budget (Percentages)
ECLAC	649 000	59
Donors	454 400	41
Total available budget	1 103 400	100

Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of progress reports.

Figure 1
Donor allocation, by type of activity
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of progress reports.

2.7 Link to the Sustainable Development Goals

Both the terms of reference and the project document align the project's contributions with the SDGs, with the expectation that most results will materialize in the medium to long term, potentially by 2030. This evaluation identifies clear linkages between the activities implemented and the relevant SDGs.

The Escazú Agreement is closely aligned with the SDGs, particularly Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), as well as Goals 13 (Climate action), 15 (Life on land) and 10 (Reduced inequalities). Support provided for the implementation of the Escazú Agreement through this project contributes to these goals by promoting environmental democracy, access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

Alignment with Goal 16

- **Target 16.3 (Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all).** The Escazú Agreement enhances legal frameworks and institutional capacities for environmental justice, supporting access to remedies for environmental harm, particularly for persons and groups in vulnerable situations.
- **Target 16.6 (Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels).** Implementation efforts support transparency and good governance through requirements for governments to provide accessible environmental information and engage the public in decision-making processes.

- **Target 16.7 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels).** The Escazú Agreement establishes obligations for public participation in environmental matters, particularly for marginalized communities, Indigenous Peoples and civil society organizations.
- **Target 16.10 (Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements).** The Escazú Agreement guarantees access to environmental information, enabling citizens to advocate sustainable policies and hold governments accountable.

Additional SDG contributions:

- **Goal 13 (Climate action).** Public participation in climate-related policies supports communities' adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- **Goal 15 (Life on land).** Strengthened legal frameworks contribute to the protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and environmental defenders.
- **Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities).** Emphasis on the inclusion of vulnerable groups, Indigenous Peoples and environmental defenders helps to ensure their voices are heard in environmental decision-making.

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

2.8 Innovative elements

Innovative methodologies and new approaches to support implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean were introduced through the project. These approaches emphasized 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

A participatory, bottom-up approach was applied, involving government institutions, civil society organizations, academic institutions and private sector representatives in shaping policies and mechanisms related to implementation of the Escazú Agreement. This approach emphasized the following:

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

2. Data-driven policy development

Evidence-based decision-making was introduced 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 good practices and scalable solutions.
- Using **case study methodologies** to analyse successful environmental governance models.

3. Digital tools to enhance access to environmental information

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

- Establishing **open-access online platforms** to facilitate access to environmental data.
- Promoting **georeferenced 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

Adaptive learning techniques were applied to continuously refine methodologies on the basis of 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 to different national contexts.
- Facilitating **peer-to-peer learning networks** among policymakers, civil society organizations and environmental defenders.

5. Legal and institutional innovation

New legal and institutional mechanisms were explored to strengthen national compliance with the Escazú Agreement, including:

- Encouraging the development of **national action plans** related to transparency and accountability.
- Supporting the establishment of **ombudsman mechanisms and specialized environmental courts**.⁵
- Integrating **gender-responsive and Indigenous participation approaches** into environmental governance frameworks.

⁵ This mechanism was highlighted in interviews in Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

△ **Scaling and replication potential**

The project results indicate the potential for **scaling up and adapting innovative legal, institutional and technological approaches across the region**. Successful elements of the project—including digital transparency tools, participatory governance models and legal harmonization frameworks— may serve as **regional benchmarks** for other Latin American and Caribbean countries that are implementing the Escazú Agreement.

By **testing and refining these methodologies**, the project contributed to the **development of replicable models** that support environmental democracy and governance, in alignment with the SDGs, particularly **Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)** and **Goal 13 (Climate action)**.

3. Evaluation objectives, scope and questions

3.1 Purpose and objectives

As set out in the terms of reference, the purpose of this end-of-cycle assessment is to evaluate 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 objective was to support the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement across Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to consolidating coherent policies and approaches aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through actions to enhance transparency, inclusion 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 key regional priority. The assessment examines how the project has supported policy coherence, intergovernmental coordination and stakeholder engagement, with a view to strengthening environmental decision-making processes aligned 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 implementation and, more specifically, to document the results achieved in relation to the overall project objectives and expected accomplishments defined in the project document.

3.2 Evaluation scope, criteria and questions

In line with the terms of reference and the objectives of the assessment, all activities implemented under the project were reviewed. In addition, selected cases beyond the designated target countries were examined to assess the project's broader influence on policy development and implementation of the Escazú Agreement. The evaluation focused on achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned, as well as the overall quality of interventions within the evolving cooperation policy landscape. Particular emphasis was placed on results-oriented analysis and on contributions to implementation of the Escazú Agreement.

4. Methodology

A. Evaluation questions

A results-oriented approach was used in the evaluation to assess the achievements attributable to the support provided through the project in Latin America and Caribbean. The evaluation was structured around questions derived from the indicative list provided in the terms of reference, which included the following four standard evaluation criteria proposed by the OECD Development Assistance Committee:

1. Relevance

- How well does the project align with regional priorities and needs, particularly with regard to supporting 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 financial, human, and technical resources used to implement project activities?
- Were the project outputs delivered on time and within budget?
- How effective were the coordination mechanisms between ECLAC, implementing partners and stakeholders?

3. Effectiveness

- To what extent were the intended outcomes achieved, particularly with regard to strengthening national capacities for access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters?
- What factors facilitated or constrained the effectiveness of the project?
- How successful was the project in fostering regional cooperation and capacity-building among target countries?

4. Sustainability

- To what extent are the results likely to be sustained beyond the project funding cycle?
- What measures have been put in place to ensure long-term institutional strengthening and national ownership of implementation of the Escazú Agreement?
- How can future initiatives build on achieved results to ensure ongoing support for environmental governance in the region?

Cross-cutting issues and thematic considerations

In addition to these criteria, the evaluation also examined the following cross-cutting issues that are central to achieving sustainable and inclusive environmental governance:

◆ Gender transformation

- To what extent were gender considerations integrated into the project approach?
- Did project activities contribute to greater participation of women and gender-diverse groups in environmental decision-making processes?

◆ **Vulnerable sectors and inclusion**

- How were the specific needs of marginalized groups, including Indigenous Peoples, rural populations and young people, addressed?
- To what extent did activities support policies that promote environmental justice for these groups?

◆ **Environmental sustainability and climate resilience**

- How did the project contribute to strengthening national and regional capacities for climate action?
- What role did it play in helping to ensure long-term environmental sustainability, in alignment with global climate commitments?

◆ **Civil society engagement and public participation**

- To what extent were civil society organizations, academic institutions and other non-State actors engaged in the project?
- Did project activities contribute to strengthening transparency and public access to environmental information?

B. Data collection and analysis

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

- **Stakeholder interviews:** conducted with representatives of member States, project stakeholders, civil society organizations and technical experts.
- **Surveys:** designed to assess stakeholder engagement, project impacts and perceived challenges.
- **Desk review:** analysis of project reports, national policies and other relevant sources to validate findings.
- **Case studies:** review of selected country-level experiences and good practices with potential for scaling up.

This comprehensive evaluation framework supported the formulation of evidence-based findings and recommendations aimed at strengthening the impact, sustainability and scalability of future initiatives in support of the Escazú Agreement.

C. Implementation of operational instruments

See annex 2.

5. Findings

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

The assessment of the project's contribution to implementation of the Escazú Agreement yielded the following key findings (see table 4), which are supported by the evaluation framework and methodology.

Table 4
Key findings and criteria scores

Criteria	Justification	Score
Relevance	The project demonstrated strong alignment with the objectives and principles of the Escazú Agreement, including access to environmental information, public participation and environmental justice. The strategic support provided by ECLAC to government institutions responded directly to the needs expressed by member States and aligned with regional and international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Rio Declaration. Cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender and environmental sustainability were also integrated into the project, further reinforcing its relevance.	5/5
Methodological basis	The high score is substantiated by consistent evidence from interviews, country consultations and document reviews, which confirmed stakeholder recognition of the project's contributions to national and regional priorities.	
Efficiency	The project was implemented with a modest budget, and cost-effective approaches were applied in strategic areas such as capacity-building and regional coordination. However, opportunities to broaden engagement, particularly with civil society organizations, the private sector and academic institutions, remained limited. These constraints affected the timely delivery of some activities and limited the depth and breadth of stakeholder engagement required for comprehensive implementation.	3.5/5
Methodological basis	Efficiency was assessed through financial documentation, stakeholder interviews and activity reports. Mixed performance in resource utilization and operational delays resulted in a moderate score.	
Effectiveness	The project contributed effectively to institutional strengthening, policy dialogue and capacity development in target countries.	3.5/5
Methodological basis	Triangulation of reported outputs, survey responses and qualitative stakeholder evidence showed significant progress in some areas, but achievements varied across countries and thematic areas.	
Sustainability	The long-term sustainability of the project results remains uncertain owing to the high dependence on political will and limited national resources. While capacities were strengthened, the degree of institutionalization of the principles of the Escazú Agreement varied significantly across countries. In most cases, formal sustainability mechanisms (e.g. national budget allocations or follow-up strategies) were not established.	2/5

Methodological basis	Sustainability assessments drew on interviews with national stakeholders and analysis of post-project planning documents. Limited institutional anchoring and the absence of long-term financial commitments justified a low score.	
Coherence	A coherent and coordinated approach was maintained both internally within ECLAC and externally with national governments and regional organizations. Activities were well aligned with other United Nations initiatives and partner programmes, although opportunities to strengthen synergies with the private sector and grassroots organizations were not fully realized.	4/5
Methodological basis	Stakeholder mapping, interviews and partner consultations showed strong vertical (global to national) and horizontal (inter-agency) alignment, albeit with room for improvement in terms of inclusion.	

Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of official documents, interviews and surveys.

Overall, as presented in table 4, the scoring reflects a balanced and evidence-based assessment of project performance in supporting the implementation of the Escazú Agreement. The methodology combined multiple data sources, stakeholder perspectives and a transparent rating process aligned with international evaluation standards. This structured framework allowed for comparability, replicability and the formulation of targeted recommendations to improve future project design and implementation.

Contribution analysis

The implementation of the Escazú Agreement has directly benefited several countries, including Argentina, Belize, Chile, Saint Lucia and Uruguay, along with OECS as a subregional entity.⁶ To date, 17 countries have ratified the Escazú 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 robust institutional structures to support implementation and monitoring. For example, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay have made significant progress in strengthening institutional capacities in line with the provisions of the Escazú Agreement.

However, contributions have been uneven across sectors. While institutional frameworks within governments have been enhanced, engagement with civil society organizations has remained limited. The education sector has seen minimal involvement and the business sector (including trade unions, small-scale cross-border traders, women’s business associations, youth labour and employment-related organizations) has been largely unaffected. The project’s strategic focus on governments has yielded positive results; however, the harmonization of documents and procedures at regional and local levels remains incomplete.

In addition, policy coordination and cooperation efforts have been concentrated primarily within government sectors, with comparatively less attention directed towards productive sectors, the reduction of gender and social barriers and the promotion of women’s and young people’s participation. Emphasis has been placed on strengthening the institutional and human capacities of the Secretariat, member States and relevant institutions to foster regional economic transformation and sustainable development.

⁶ Documents reveal a concentration of activities and results in these countries.

Key findings: challenges and achievements

- 1. Political and institutional challenges.** The project took place within a complex political and institutional environment, particularly in Latin America, where government transitions and policy shifts in several countries affected implementation. For example, changes in administrations and national focal points delayed project implementation; nevertheless, activities continued in countries such as Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay.
- 2. Legal and institutional variability.** Diverse legal frameworks across Latin America and the Caribbean posed challenges to implementation efforts. Each country's unique legal, regulatory and judicial structures, combined with varying levels of institutional capacity and budgetary availability, complicated project execution. A more uniform legal and institutional landscape would have facilitated smoother implementation.
- 3. Resource limitations and strategic targeting.** Available resources were insufficient to cover the project's vast geographical and environmental scope. Prioritizing four target countries (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Saint Lucia) was a strategic decision that allowed for more focused and effective interventions.
- 4. Need for broader public and local government engagement.** Despite the progress achieved, broader engagement with the general public, including academia and the private sector, remained necessary. Awareness and implementation at the local government level continued to be limited, indicating a gap in grassroots engagement.
- 5. Political dialogue and cooperation.** Political dialogue played a central role in advancing ratification and implementation. Cooperation agreements were established and co-financing secured from national and multilateral organizations, demonstrating the importance of political will alongside structural changes.
- 6. Effective execution.** The Secretariat successfully aligned project activities with national environmental and human rights policies, generating economic and strategic benefits for member States. Contributions related to the development of guidelines and methodologies proved critical in supporting national efforts to operationalize the Escazú Agreement.
- 7. Institutional strengthening and networks.** Implementation capacity increased significantly in countries such as Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. A well-structured Secretariat, supported by ECLAC focal points, coordinating ministries and national committees, was instrumental in achieving key results.
- 8. Technical assistance and stakeholder engagement.** Valuable technical assistance was provided to policymakers and networks with the private sector and civil society actors were maintained. However, civil society organizations reported concerns about their limited involvement in political and coordination dialogues.
- 9. Key achievements and areas for improvement.** Significant results were achieved in technical assistance delivery, the development of guidelines and participation in regional forums. However, civil society engagement remained a critical area for improvement, with many organizations reporting dissatisfaction regarding their level of involvement.

Overall, implementation of the project has contributed significantly to strengthening government institutions and aligning national policies with the objectives of the Escazú Agreement. However, challenges remain in terms of resource allocation, broad-based public engagement and sustainability. Benefits accrued unevenly, with greater gains observed at the governmental level than among civil society and other sectors. Moving forward, greater emphasis on inclusion, resource mobilization and political advocacy will be essential to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the Escazú Agreement in promoting environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

5.1 Relevance

The project was widely regarded by stakeholders as highly relevant and suitable, owing particularly to its alignment with national environmental policies. ECLAC played a pivotal role in facilitating and assessing implementation of the Escazú Agreement, demonstrating its relevance through tangible contributions to environmental governance and human rights.

1. Alignment with objectives

The dual role of ECLAC as Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement and project implementation unit was crucial with regard to executing the project at both political and operational levels. The project's influence on national governments was highly valued, particularly its contribution to fostering dialogue, strengthening coordination and reaffirming commitments related to environmental protection, access to justice and human rights. Implementation aligned closely with the following core objectives of the Escazú Agreement:

- **Access to environmental information.** Support was provided to governments for the establishment of transparency mechanisms, ensuring public access to environmental data.
- **Public participation in environmental decision-making.** Efforts were made to promote inclusive participation, enabling civil society and Indigenous communities to engage in policymaking.
- **Access to justice in environmental matters.** Legal frameworks enabling individuals and organizations to seek justice for environmental issues were advanced.
- **Protection of environmental defenders.** Measures were implemented to safeguard activists from threats and violence.

2. Stakeholder engagement

Available documentation highlights the project's contributions to stakeholder engagement, reinforcing the relevance of the Escazú Agreement. ECLAC engaged with a diverse range of stakeholders, including:

- **Governments:** technical assistance and policy recommendations provided to align domestic legislation with the mandate of the Escazú Agreement.
- **Civil society organizations:** engagement with non-governmental organizations to promote awareness and advocacy related to environmental rights.
- **Indigenous and local communities:** inclusion of marginalized groups in decision-making processes.

- **Private sector:** promotion of sustainable business practices and compliance with transparency requirements.
- **International organizations:** collaboration with United Nations 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, the following challenges remain:

- **Ratification status.** Despite increased participation of governments, with 24 signatories and 17 Parties, the membership of the Escazú Agreement should increase to include all 33 countries of the region. For example, non-Parties include Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru.
- **Political debates.** In some countries, the Escazú Agreement has sparked intense debate, reflecting strong political engagement and the prioritization of project activities.
- **High demand for services.** Sustained demand for technical assistance, expert mapping, priority setting and advisory support demonstrated the continued relevance of the project.

4. Key project contributions

Methodological and operational outputs were highly regarded, including:

- **Implementation guide:** A comprehensive road map for governments to operationalize the Escazú Agreement.
- **Road maps for national strategies:** Tailored strategies to support national implementation efforts.
- **Forums, seminars and workshops:** Platforms for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.

The most recent implementation report recorded positive feedback from multiple countries regarding project leadership and execution by ECLAC.

5. Major milestones

- **First Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement and First Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (2022):** Marked a significant step in advancing the objectives of the Escazú Agreement.
- **Publication of implementation guide of the Escazú Agreement:** Provided a practical tool for governments to interpret and implement the Escazú Agreement.
- **Strengthening of the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean:** Enhanced regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
- **Provision of technical assistance:** Assisted governments in database development, information gathering, road map preparation and methodological approaches.

6. Challenges in civil society engagement

Despite its overall relevance, the impact of the Escazú Agreement has been less evident among civil society organizations, academia and economic associations. Key challenges 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 road maps.
- **Resource allocation.** Insufficient resources have been allocated to support diverse civil society groups, including women’s organizations, minority groups, children and older persons.

7. Country-specific relevance analysis

The review of documents presented by ECLAC, along with country-level information and stakeholder interviews, confirms the perceived relevance of the Escazú Agreement’s implementation process. Stakeholders from non-Party countries, such as Peru, acknowledged their limited participation in the Escazú Agreement while noting 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 Parties, enabling a comparative analysis that highlighted contrasts, weaknesses and strengths across different national contexts, presented in table 5 below. Accordingly, perspectives from Peruvian stakeholders are reflected in these sections.

Table 5
Achievements under the Escazú Agreement, by

Argentina	
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hosting of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Buenos Aires (April 2023), leading to the election of the first seven members of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance. ◆ Development of a National Action Plan (May–August 2023) with ECLAC support, aiming to enhance governance and public participation. ◆ Participation in the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (April 2024) and report on progress towards implementation of priority actions.
Chile	
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ratification of the Escazú Agreement in June 2022. ◆ Strengthening of legal protections and institutional mechanisms to comply with the Escazú Agreement. ◆ Improvement of transparency and access to environmental information through digital platforms. ◆ Active participation in regional discussions, contributing to wider adherence to the Escazú Agreement.
Ecuador	
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparation of a national road map. A country-specific road map for the implementation of the Escazú Agreement was prepared. ◆ Institutional strengthening. National institutions involved in environmental governance were engaged in efforts to align national policy frameworks. ◆ Regional exchange and visibility. Active participation in regional forums and Conferences of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement contributed to cross-country learning and reinforced political commitment.

Peru	
Key challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Signature of the agreement in 2018 without subsequent ratification. ◆ Among the most dangerous countries for environmental defenders, with weak legal protections. ◆ Continued advocacy by civil society organizations for ratification, citing the urgent need for stronger safeguards.
Saint Lucia	
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparation of a national road map. A comprehensive road map was formulated to guide implementation of the Escazú Agreement. ◆ Engagement with the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance. In April 2025, Saint Lucia hosted a visit from the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement. ◆ Promotion of public participation. Measures were undertaken to actively promote citizen involvement in environmental decision-making processes, in line with the Escazú Agreement. ◆ Advocacy for environmental justice. Government actions reflected support for environmental conservation and justice, recognizing the rights of present and future generations to a healthy environment and sustainable development.
Uruguay	
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ratification of the Escazú Agreement in 2019, among the first countries to do so, demonstrating a firm commitment to environmental governance. ◆ Integration of provisions of the Escazú Agreement into national frameworks, ensuring public access to environmental information. ◆ Strengthening of legal protections for environmental defenders and continued participation in regional cooperation mechanisms.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of official documents, interviews and surveys.

The ECLAC Secretariat and its project implementation unit have been considered (and remain) a key instrument for advancing environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. While the contributions of ECLAC have been widely recognized in governmental capacity-building, policy development and legal frameworks, gaps remain in civil society engagement and national-level harmonization. Strengthening inclusion, resource allocation and political advocacy will be essential to ensure the long-term success of the Escazú Agreement.

5.2 Efficiency

△ Resource utilization

Project implementation was carried out by the ECLAC 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 the preparation of guidelines and the provision of technical assistance.

The project was officially launched in January 2021 and concluded in June 2024, with remaining activities scheduled for early 2025. While the geographical scope covered all 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the primary focus was on 4 target countries:

Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Saint Lucia. However, other countries, including Belize, Grenada, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay and OECS member States, also benefited directly from the activities undertaken.

To enhance operational capacity, ECLAC mobilized resident coordinator offices in target countries such as Argentina, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay. Stakeholders expressed a high level of satisfaction with the implementing team, highlighting coordination, dialogue facilitation and advocacy efforts related to the ratification of the Escazú Agreement. 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 identified:

- **Need to further expand public participation.** Greater attention would be desirable to address the concerns of a diverse range of stakeholders, 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.

△ Resource management and budget allocation

A total budget of US\$ 649,000 was allocated over a period of approximately 3.5 to 4 years (January 2021 to June 2024). While modest in relation to the scope of activities, the budget was strategically distributed across seven categories, as presented in table 6.

Table 6
Budget line allocation

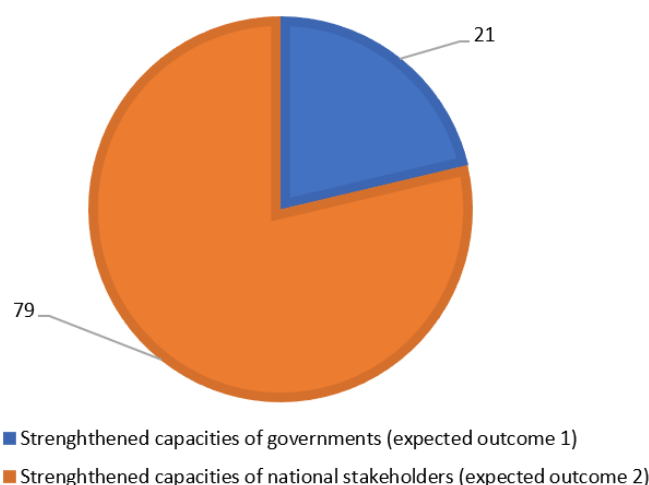
Code	Budget line	Available budget (Dollars)	Share of total (Percentages)
15	1. Other staff costs	31 500	5
105	2. Consultants and experts	154 275	24
115	3. Staff travel costs	47 000	7
120	4. Contractual services	112 500	17
125	5. General operating expenses	61 059	9
135	6. Furniture and equipment	1 889	0
145	7. Grants and contributions	240 777	37
	Total	649 000	100

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of Escazú Agreement project documents.

Budget allocations were also aligned with two outcomes (see figure 2):

- (1) **Strengthening the capacities of national stakeholders** (79% of the budget).
- (2) **Enhancing the capacities of governments** (21% of the budget).

Figure 2
Budget allocation, by expected outcome
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of progress reports.

This distribution reflects the project’s emphasis on democratizing environmental concerns and promoting public stewardship. The budget execution rate was 99% (see breakdown below in table 7). Expenditure progressed gradually in the first two years and accelerated in the third year, reflecting near-full utilization by 2024.

Table 7
Budget, actual expenditure and execution rate
(Dollars and percentages)

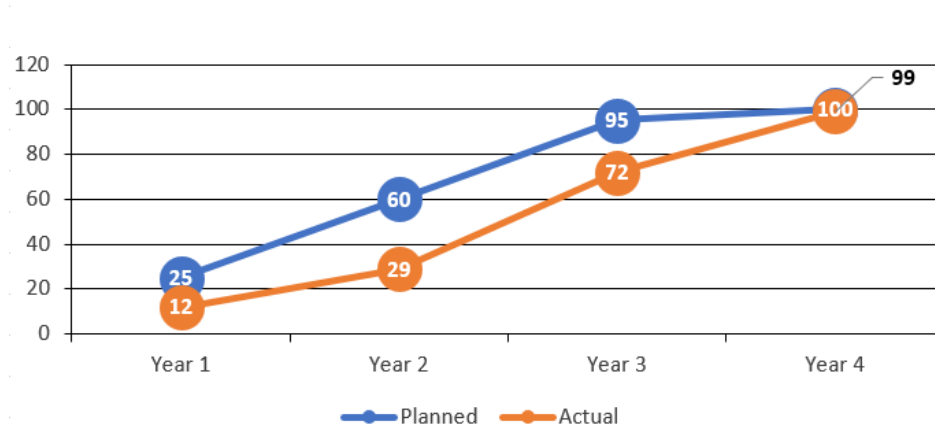
Code	Budget Line	Available budget <i>(Dollars)</i>	Total expenditure <i>(Dollars)</i>	Balance <i>(Dollars)</i>	Implementation rate <i>(Percentages)</i>
15	1. Other staff costs	31 500	32 618	-1 118	104
105	2. Consultants and experts	154 275	184 524	-30 249	120
115	3. Staff travel costs	47 000	40 797	6 203	87
120	4. Contractual services	112 500	93 234	19 266	83
125	5. General operating expenses	61 059	67 801	-6 742	111
135	6. Furniture and equipment	1 889	1 889	0	100
145	7. Grants and contributions	240 777	220 266	20 511	91
	Total	649 000	641 129	7 871	99

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

△ Planned budget and actual expenditure

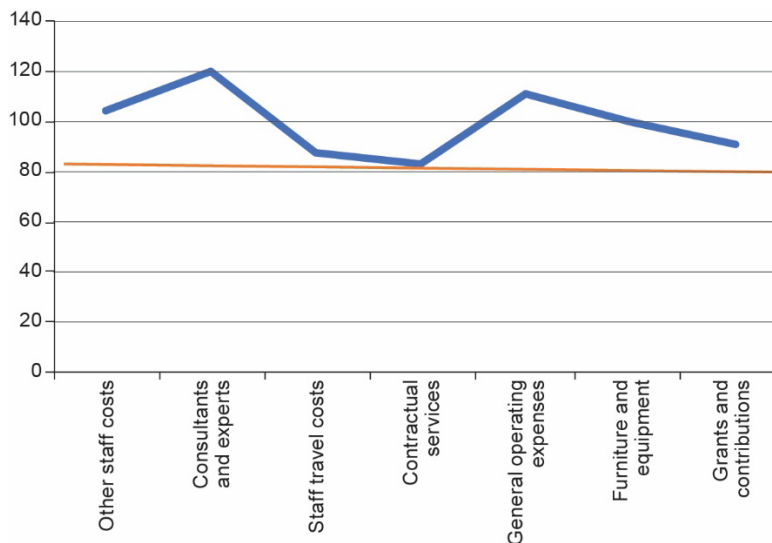
Actual expenditure shows a limited deviation rate compared with planned activities, reflecting the capacity to adjust allocations in the third and fourth years. The learning curve in the first two years is attributed to the preparation of tools and instruments required for implementation of activities, as well as extended consultation processes related to decision-making and coordination with governments and stakeholders. Figure 3 illustrates this expenditure pattern and figure 4 outlines the budget execution rate by category.

Figure 3
Planned budget and actual expenditure rates, 2021–2024
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of financial reports.

Figure 4
Budget execution rate, by category
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author.

△ Donor contributions

The implementation performance of ECLAC received broad recognition from stakeholders and international organizations working in related fields. Strong approval and confidence from the donor community are reflected in their continued financial support, either through complementary initiatives or by entrusting the ECLAC project implementation unit with expanded responsibilities.

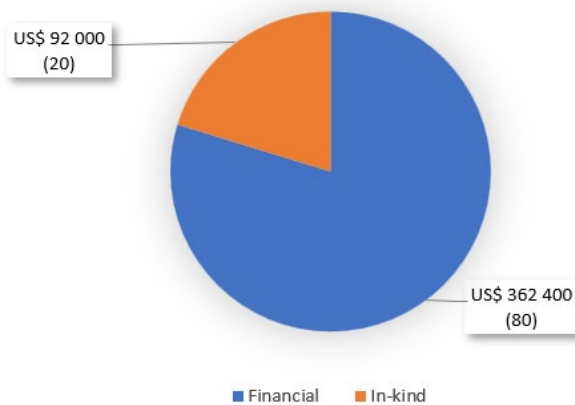
As illustrated in figures 5A and 5B, since the project's inception in early 2021, donor contributions have played a critical role in driving its progress. Donor funding has sustained activities through project completion in 2024, with additional commitments for key initiatives extending into 2025, including support for the organization of the **fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Chile**. International donor contributions totalled **US\$ 454,400**, provided through a combination of **financial (80%) and in-kind (20%) support**. Budget estimates were jointly determined by ECLAC management and donors.

The total available budget, combining ECLAC and donor contributions, was US\$ 1,103,400. Key partners included governments in the region as well as organizations such as OECS, OHCHR, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNEP, the World Bank and the Ford Foundation.

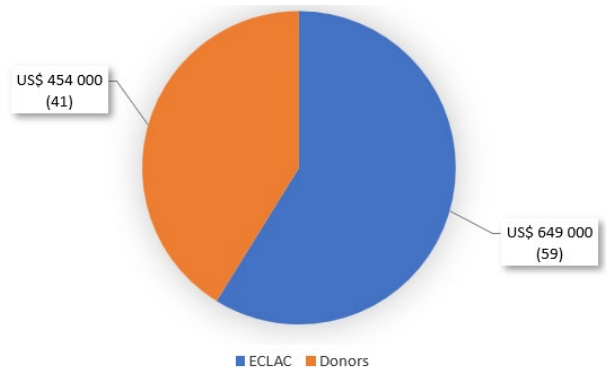
Donor resources were directed primarily towards activities related to the organization of meetings (78%) and consultancies (22%).

Figure 5
Financial and in-kind donor contributions
(Dollars and percentages)

A. Distribution of donor contributions, by modality



B. Distribution of total available budget, by source, 2021–2024



Source: Prepared by the author.

A breakdown of this allocation is presented in table 8.

Table 8
Donor contributions, by institution, activity and modality, 2021-2024
(Dollars)

Source/donor	Activity	Year	Amount		Type of activity
			Financial	In-kind ^a	
Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Saint Lucia and Uruguay	OP 2.3; OP 2.4	2021–2024	-	20 000	Meetings
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	OC 1; OP 2.3	2022–2023	-	20 000	Meetings
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	OP 2.4	2022–2024	-	30 000	Meeting
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	OP 2.4	2023	-	10 000	Meeting
United Nations Environment Programme	OP 1.3	2022–2023	6 700	-	Consultancy
	OP 2.4	2022–2023	10 700	-	Meetings
Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation	OC 1; OP 2.3	2021–2022	30 000	-	Meetings
Ford Foundation	OP 2.4	2023	100 000	-	Meetings
World Bank	OP 2.3	2022–2023	50 000	-	Consultancies
	OP 2.4	2022–2023	20 000	-	Meetings
Expertise France	OP 2.4	2023–2024	100 000	-	Meetings
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	OP 1.3	2021–2024	45 000	-	Consultancy
	OP 2.4	2023	-	12 000	Meetings
Total donor contributions			362 400	92 000	454 400

Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of progress reports.

Note: “OC” and “OP” refer to outcome and output codes as defined in the project results framework. Where multiple codes are listed, contributions supported activities across more than one output or outcome. “Meetings” refer to costs associated with meeting participants, experts, facilities and breaks (when hybrid).

^a Value estimated by ECLAC or donor.

△ Stakeholder engagement and participation

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

▪ Meetings of the Conference of the Parties:

- **First meeting of the Conference of the Parties (April 2022):** Held in Santiago, marking a significant step in implementation.
- **Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (April 2023):** Hosted in Buenos Aires, advancing dialogue on the objectives of the Escazú Agreement.

- **Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (April 2024):** Focused on adopting a plan of action for environmental human rights defenders.

- **Side events at international conferences:** Participation in twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) (2021) and COP 28 (2023), emphasizing the Escazú Agreement’s relevance to climate justice.
- **Dialogue forums:** a forum held in Costa Rica in June 2021 highlighted the significance of the Escazú Agreement, particularly its provisions on the protection of environmental defenders.

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

△ Target countries and stakeholder participation

Four countries –Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay– were initially targeted through the project given 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, the target countries were changed to Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Saint Lucia, while engagement also took place with additional countries, including Belize, Grenada, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay.

Table 9 outlines stakeholder and country participation.

Table 9. Stakeholder and country participation, by outcome and by project implementation period (Progress reports)

Category	Progress report 1	Progress report 2	Progress report 3	Progress report 4
OC1	Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia	Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay
OC2	Argentina, Belize, Mexico, Uruguay	Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Saint Lucia, Uruguay	Argentina, Ecuador	Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia

Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of progress reports.

Overall, stakeholder participation was robust, with significant representation from civil society, academia and government ministries (see table 10 and figure 6).

Table 10
Institutional participation in one or more project events, by country
and stakeholder category

Country	Civil society organizations ^a (Number of organizations)	Civil society affiliates ^b (Estimated number of persons)	Academic institutions ^c (Number of institutions)	Government ministries ^d (Number of ministries)
Mexico	4	8 000	4	3
Chile	12	1 500	8	4
Peru	8	1 600	4	3
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
Total	55	18 200	41	29

Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of interviews and country information.

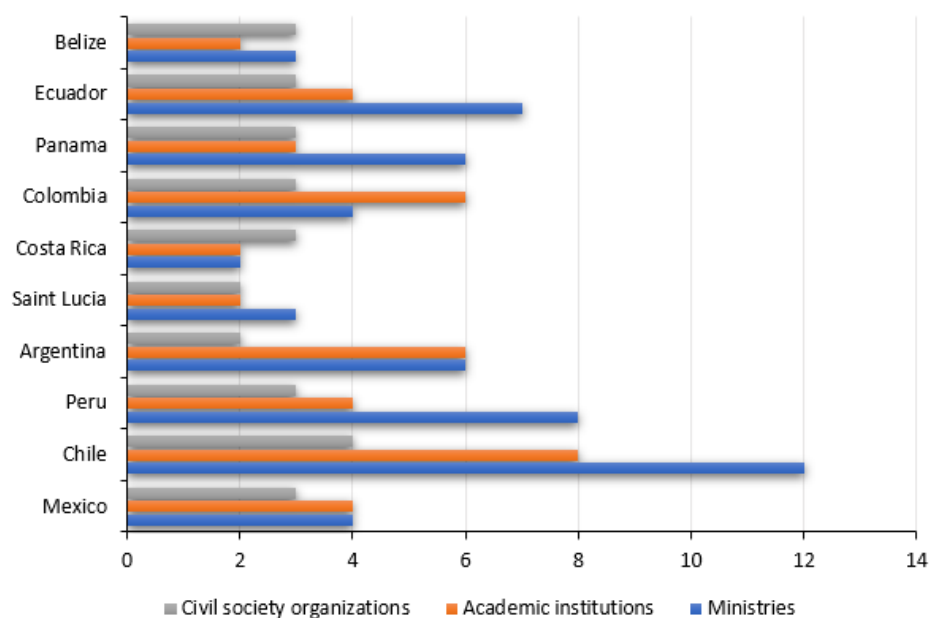
^a Number of civil society organizations that participated in at least in one event organized by ECLAC.

^b Estimated number of civil society affiliates.

^c Number of representatives of academic institutions that participated in at least one event organized by ECLAC.

^d Number of ministries that participated in at least one event organized by ECLAC (e.g. in Mexico, three ministries participated: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry for Women).

Figure 6
Institutional participation, by country and stakeholder category
(Number of institutions)



Source: Prepared by the author.

△ Stakeholder perceptions of benefit distribution and performance value

Findings from stakeholder interviews indicate that nearly 70% of respondents considered governments to have received the greatest share of benefits associated with the project's implementation. Specifically, **65% of interviewees** identified national governments as the primary beneficiaries, owing largely to capacity-building initiatives, policy support and technical assistance delivered through project activities. Governments reported 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 identified was **international organizations**, which have participated actively in events as strategic partners of ECLAC. Their involvement contributed to expanded networking opportunities, increased synergies with other multilateral agencies and strengthened collaboration on environmental governance initiatives.

Civil society organizations ranked third in terms of perceived benefits. While their engagement has been significant, particularly in advocacy efforts, awareness-raising campaigns and the monitoring of environmental rights, the level of direct institutional support received was perceived as lower than that reported for governments.

Academic institutions and the private sector occupied the lowest positions in perceived benefit distribution. Participation in Escazú-related activities has been relatively modest, resulting in limited direct advantages. While academic institutions have contributed through research and policy recommendations and some private sector actors have engaged in dialogues on environmental sustainability, their overall involvement remained comparatively limited.

The **perceived value of the project's contribution and the ranking of institutional participation** are illustrated in table 11 below, reflecting stakeholder perspectives on how benefits have been distributed among different actors. These findings point to the need for broader engagement strategies to ensure that all relevant sectors, including academia and private enterprises, are more actively involved in future initiatives.

Table 11
Perceived share of benefits by stakeholder group
(Rating)

Categories	Value perception
Governments	4.5
International organizations	4
Civil society	3
Academia	2
Private sector	1

Source: Prepared by the author.

△ Successes and challenges

A comprehensive review of documents, interviews and survey responses identified key successes and challenges during the project implementation period (see table 12). These insights provide a balanced view of the project’s contributions, effectiveness and areas requiring further attention.

Table 12
Successes and challenges identified during project implementation

Successes	Challenges
Strong stakeholder engagement and collaboration, supporting project ownership and sustainability.	Variability in national institutional capacities, affecting the pace and depth of implementation.
Effective capacity-building initiatives that improved technical expertise and institutional capabilities.	Limited financial and human resources in some target countries, constraining execution.
Efficient resource mobilization, including additional funding secured from donors to expand project impact.	Complex coordination among multiple stakeholders, requiring continuous efforts to align priorities.
High participation rates in events and training sessions, indicating broad interest and commitment.	Administrative and logistical hurdles, particularly in adapting to evolving local contexts.
Fast-track adoption in Chile following initial political opposition. Argentina’s hosting of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties and formulation of a national action plan.	Slow ratification processes in key countries.
Effective regional forums for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.	

Source: Prepared by the author.

The assessment indicates that implementation of the project by ECLAC was carried out efficiently, with effective use of resources and strong stakeholder engagement. However, challenges such as limited civil society participation and administrative bottlenecks highlight areas where improvements are needed. While the project’s contributions to regional cooperation and institutional strengthening are evident, sustained efforts will be required to address remaining gaps and support long-term impact.

5.3 Effectiveness

ECLAC has played a pivotal role in supporting countries to implement the Escazú Agreement. This section assesses the effectiveness of the project by examining its achievements, challenges and impacts across participating countries.

Key achievements

The outcomes defined in the project's logical framework and theory of change were achieved. Capacities were strengthened 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. Justice in environmental matters.** Legal frameworks were strengthened to allow individuals and organizations to seek justice in environmental issues.

The ECLAC management team demonstrated strong political and operational commitment, contributing to coordination, complementarity and synergies across activities. The following outcomes were recorded:

- **Strengthened national capacities.** Governments in target countries (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Saint Lucia), as well as other participating countries, were better equipped to meet their obligations under the Escazú Agreement.
- **Empowered national stakeholders.** National implementation road maps were developed or were under development in seven countries, including Argentina, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

Progress and implementation

All planned activities were completed within the project cycle (2021–2024), as documented in four progress reports. Key developments included:

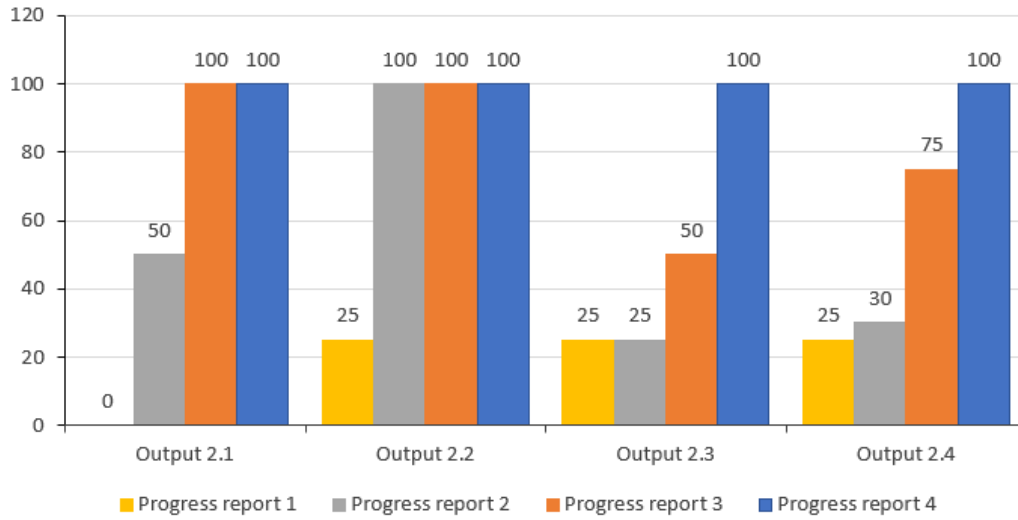
- **Increase in ratifications.** The number of Parties increased from 10 to 17, with 24 signatories. Ratifications during the project period included Belize (2023), Chile (2022), Colombia (2024), Dominica (2024) and Grenada (2023).
- **Timely delivery of outputs.** All outputs were delivered by the final year of implementation, with some completed ahead of schedule. While certain activities experienced delays, such as the regional seminar initially planned for 2022 and held in 2023 during the second Conference of the Parties, these adjustments allowed for the incorporation of inputs from public consultations into the revised implementation guide. As noted in the third progress report, this resulted in an enhanced scope and impact beyond initial expectations.⁷

Figure 7 summarizes progress in the implementation of each output.

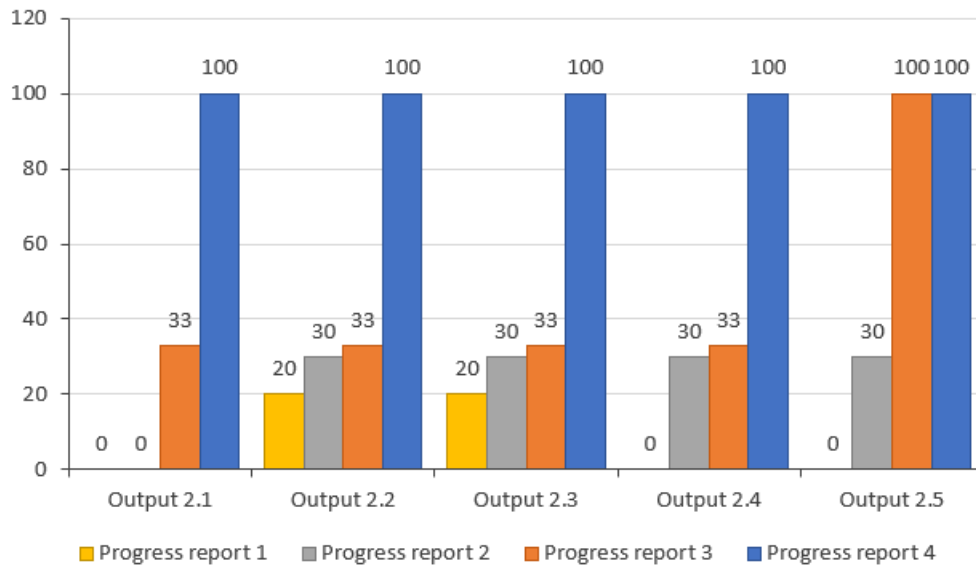
⁷ See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2024). *Progress report 2023*.

Figure 7
Rate of progress, by output
(Percentages)

A. Output 1



B. Output 2



Source: Prepared by the author, on the basis of progress reports.

Challenges and adjustments

Several challenges were encountered during implementation:

1. **Resource constraints.** With a total budget of US\$ 649,000, available resources were used efficiently to deliver meaningful capacity-building and technical assistance. Nevertheless, demand across 33 countries exceeded available funding.
2. **Political and institutional changes.** Frequent government transitions in the region required regular adjustments to project objectives and outcomes, resulting in minor delays. For example, Mexico's implementation plan was not finalized by 2024, leading to a reallocation of resources to other countries, including Chile.
3. **Challenges in sustaining broad public engagement.** While government capacity-building showed positive results, civil society organizations requested additional support. Indigenous communities, women's groups and youth organizations faced barriers to participation owing to resource constraints and administrative obstacles.

Effectiveness across key areas

The project's effectiveness was evaluated against the following indicators:

✓ Access to environmental information

- Countries such as Argentina, Chile and Uruguay launched national platforms for environmental data, while others, such as Belize, are in the process of developing similar systems.
- The implementation guide of the Escazú Agreement, a key output, provided a road map for governments to strengthen transparency. However, 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:

- In **Argentina**, grassroots organizations lacked access to public consultations as a result of digital gaps and limited outreach.
- In **Chile**, Indigenous communities, such as the Mapuche, struggled to secure meaningful participation in decisions affecting their lands.
- In **Mexico**, women's environmental organizations encountered gender bias and institutional neglect.

✓ Access to Justice in environmental matters

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

Key interviews highlighted that, to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, 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 high demand for capacity-building and technical assistance for 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

Sustainability of project activities is a critical factor in ensuring long-term results. While notable progress has been made in strengthening institutional frameworks and fostering regional cooperation, sustainability remains fragile and highly dependent on political will and resource availability. Key aspects of sustainability include:

- **Institutional strengthening.** ECLAC has contributed significantly to building institutional capacity in several countries, particularly Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. The continuity of these efforts will depend on sustained national government commitment to maintain and expand these structures.
- **Civil society engagement.** Limited societal involvement risks reinforcing a top-down implementation of the Escazú Agreement, reducing its long-term impact. Strengthening partnerships with grassroots organizations, Indigenous communities and women’s groups is essential to ensure that the principles of the Escazú Agreement are deeply rooted in society.
- **Financial resources.** The project’s budget of US\$ 649,000 was efficiently used to support specific activities in selected target countries. However, it remains limited relative to the broader geographical and thematic scope 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 Agreement principles into national legal systems is a positive step towards sustainability. However, the lack of uniformity in legal frameworks across Latin America and the Caribbean complicates implementation. Harmonizing these frameworks and ensuring their enforcement will be critical to sustaining progress.
- **Political momentum.** The implementation of the Escazú Agreement is strongly influenced by political dynamics. Countries such as Chile and Uruguay have demonstrated strong political commitment, while others face more complex political contexts. Sustaining political momentum will require continued advocacy and dialogue with governments, civil society and the private sector.

- **Participation of the private sector and academic institutions.** These actors play a crucial role in promoting transparency in coordination and negotiation processes. Their engagement enhances environmental governance, strengthens civil society participation in community development, contributes to education and capacity-building and supports the transition towards sustainable and green economies, directly influencing the rights and principles supported by the Escazú Agreement.

5.5 Coherence

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

- **Alignment with national policies.** The Escazú Agreement is in line with national environmental policies in countries like Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, where it has been integrated into legal frameworks and institutional structures. This ensures complementarity with existing efforts and avoids duplication.
- **Regional integration.** Regional cooperation has been promoted through forums, seminars and workshops that facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member States. OECS has played an active role in this regard, with Saint Lucia providing leadership.
- **Synergies with international frameworks.** The Escazú Agreement is in line with global environmental and human rights frameworks, such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change, enhancing its relevance and international support.
- **Cross-sectoral coordination.** Coordination across different sectors, including government agencies, civil society and international organizations, has been effective. However, greater coherence is needed in involving the private sector, whose engagement remains limited.

5.6. Cross-cutting issues

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

- **Gender equality.** While inclusion is emphasized in the Escazú Agreement, women's organizations and gender-responsive environmental policies require additional support. Strengthening the participation of women in decision-making and addressing gender-based barriers will enhance the Agreement's impact.
- **Indigenous rights.** Indigenous communities face significant barriers to participation in environmental governance. Ensuring their meaningful participation and protection of their rights is crucial to 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 underscore the need for stronger protection measures and enforcement mechanisms.

6. Conclusions

The implementation of the Escazú Agreement has contributed to advancing environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project has supported institutional strengthening, policy development and improvements to legal frameworks aimed at enhancing 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 and is 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 continue to create gaps in the Escazú Agreement's overall effectiveness.

To build on the progress achieved, further efforts should focus on strengthening institutional frameworks, increasing financial and technical support for local initiatives and fostering greater regional cooperation. Greater integration of the private sector and academic institutions into decision-making processes could also contribute to 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 main 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 such as Argentina, Chile and Uruguay have established robust institutional mechanisms to ensure compliance with the principles of the Escazú Agreement. These include the creation of national platforms for environmental data, the development of legal frameworks to enhance access to justice and the establishment of formal consultation processes to promote public participation.
- **Policy development.** The development of the implementation guide of the Escazú Agreement and the road map for national strategies resulted in the availability of practical tools to support governments in operationalizing the Escazú Agreement. These resources proved particularly relevant in countries such as Belize, where initial institutional capacity was limited. The implementation guide has also been used to support the incorporation of principles of the Escazú Agreement into national environmental policies, contributing to alignment with broader sustainable development goals.
- **Legal frameworks.** Technical assistance provided through the project supported several countries in strengthening their legal frameworks for environmental governance. In Uruguay, principles of the Escazú Agreement were integrated into national legislation, enhancing public access to environmental information and legal protections for environmental defenders. Similarly, in Chile, transparency mechanisms were strengthened through the expansion of digital platforms that enable public access to real-time environmental data.

Challenges and limitations

Despite these achievements, several challenges continue to limit the full realization of the objectives of the Escazú Agreement:

- **Need to broaden public engagement:** While governments have benefited from technical assistance and institutional support, civil society organizations, Indigenous communities and marginalized groups have often been excluded from decision-making processes. In Argentina, grassroots organizations faced barriers to participation in public consultations owing to digital gaps and limited outreach efforts. In Chile, Indigenous communities, including the Mapuche, have experienced difficulties in securing meaningful participation in decisions affecting their territories. In Peru, seven Indigenous leaders from the Iquitos region have been imprisoned after raising concerns regarding river contamination by an oil extraction company.
- **Resource constraints:** The project budget of US\$ 649,000, although efficiently allocated among the selected target countries, proved limited in addressing the broader regional demand for capacity-building and technical assistance.
- **Political shifts:** Progress in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement remains heavily dependent on political will, which has varied across the region. While ratification supports institutional continuity, sustained technical and governmental engagement is required to maintain implementation efforts. These political dynamics underscore the need for ongoing advocacy and dialogue to secure long-term commitment.
- **Threats to environmental defenders**

Sustainability and future directions

The sustainability of results achieved to date is contingent upon addressing these challenges through a combination of political advocacy, financial support and broader societal involvement. Key priorities include:

- **Strengthening civil society engagement.** Greater inclusion of grassroots organizations, Indigenous communities and marginalized groups in decision-making processes should be prioritized. This may be advanced through targeted capacity-building programmes, financial support and the establishment of formal consultation mechanisms.
- **Securing additional resources.** Additional funding should be sourced to expand the scope of activities, particularly in non-ratifying countries. An increased budget would allow for the implementation of broader and more impactful initiatives.
- **Promoting political commitment.** Continued efforts to encourage ratification and implementation of the Escazú Agreement remain relevant in countries that are not yet Parties. This can be achieved through high-level political dialogue, regional forums and public awareness campaigns.
- **Enhancing legal protections.** Work should be undertaken to support governments in strengthening legal frameworks for environmental governance, particularly with regard to access to justice and the protection of environmental defenders. This includes the consistent enforcement of existing legislation and the identification and addressing of gaps in legal protections.

Relevant facts and figures

- **Increased ratifications.** The number of Parties to the Escazú Agreement increased from 10 to 17 during the project period, with a total of 24 signatories. Ratifications by Belize (2023), Chile (2022) and Grenada (2023) reflect growing regional commitment.
- **Key milestones.** The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2022, followed by subsequent meetings in 2023 and 2024, represented important milestones in advancing the objectives of the Escazú Agreement. These events facilitated knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member States.
- **Implementation guide.** The implementation guide of the Escazú Agreement, developed by ECLAC, has been widely recognized as a valuable tool for governments. However, dissemination at the level of local and Indigenous communities remains limited, indicating the need for greater outreach efforts.

Overall, project implementation contributed to the establishment of a solid foundation for strengthening environmental governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the long-term effectiveness of the Escazú Agreement hinges on overcoming persistent challenges and ensuring sustained political and financial support, including additional contributions from Member States to reinforce the implementation unit and the Secretariat. Enhanced inclusion, strengthened legal frameworks and continued regional collaboration will be critical to maximizing the impact of the Escazú Agreement and ensuring that its benefits reach all citizens, particularly marginalized communities.

7. Recommendations

The implementation of the following recommendations is expected to strengthen **political will, operational efficiency and long-term sustainability** with regard to the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean. By addressing both **high-level policy challenges** and **practical implementation barriers**, these measures aim to improve **access to environmental information, public participation and justice** across the region.

On the basis of findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed.

Recommendations aligned with findings and conclusions

1. Further enhance public engagement

(Linked to the conclusion on limited engagement of civil society and marginalized groups)

1. Take additional measures to strengthen inclusion and participation within consultation frameworks, with a view to increasing the 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 to facilitate participation in consultations and capacity-building activities.

3. Disseminate the implementation guide of the Escazú Agreement and related tools in culturally appropriate and accessible formats for local communities.

2. Expand and sustain financial resources in target and non-target countries

(Linked to the conclusion on resource constraints limiting implementation)

1. Mobilize additional funding, including adequate, stable and predictable resources, through the United Nations system, other international organizations, international donors, multilateral development banks and regional partnerships.
2. Promote the allocation of national budgetary resources dedicated to implementation of the Escazú Agreement, particularly for underfunded areas such as local outreach and judicial capacity-building.
3. Encourage co-financing models involving private sector and philanthropic contributions to support greater public engagement and environmental monitoring activities.

3. Promote political buy-in and raise awareness

(Linked to the conclusion on political resistance and stalled ratification in key countries)

1. Increase awareness and engagement among relevant stakeholders in the region, particularly non-Parties, including through high-level political dialogue and South-South exchanges aimed at expanding the gains achieved to date.
2. Convene regional forums and diplomatic missions to generate political momentum and reinforce commitment to the Escazú Agreement.
3. Strengthen collaboration with regional and subregional bodies to mainstream priorities of the Escazú Agreement into broader development agendas.

4. Increase private sector engagement and linkages with corporate responsibility

(Linked to the conclusion on private sector integration, particularly in extractive regions)

1. Organize regional dialogues with private sector stakeholders to broaden engagement and align sustainable business practices with the Escazú Agreement's transparency goals.
2. Develop sector-specific guidelines on environmental democracy and its benefits for the public, including private sector actors.
3. Promote corporate compliance through public-private partnerships and recognition programmes.

5. Strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement

(Linked to the conclusion on uneven legal progress and weak enforcement mechanisms)

1. Continue to provide assistance to countries in the implementation of priority actions identified in national plans and road maps.
2. Provide model legal provisions and technical guidance to support the institutionalization of environmental democracy.
3. Encourage the establishment 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 the conclusion on uneven national capacities and limited regional coherence)

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

7. Strengthen regional action to protect environmental defenders

(Linked to the conclusion on persistent threats and violence against defenders)

1. Support national implementation of the regional action plan and related measures, such as rapid response mechanisms for defenders at risk, with appropriate legal and financial support.
2. Continue training activities for relevant public officials on the protection of environmental human rights defenders.
3. Support the strengthening of national protection frameworks and promote accountability through the investigation and sanctioning of attacks and violations against defenders.

8. Lessons learned and good practices

The evaluation identified a number of lessons learned and good practices that offer insights extending beyond the primary users of this assessment. These findings are relevant for policymakers, international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders engaged in environmental governance, transparency and sustainable development. In addition to supporting the future implementation of the Escazú Agreement, they also contribute to broader governance and policy frameworks at both national and international levels. By informing future cooperation programmes and promoting environmental democracy, these lessons may serve as a model for inclusive and transparent decision-making across various sectors.

1. Policy and political lessons learned

(a) Importance of high-level political commitment

- **Strong political will and leadership.** The effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement has been closely linked to strong political commitment and leadership at the national level. In countries where clear governmental endorsement was observed, greater progress was made in integrating the principles of the agreement into national policies and institutional frameworks.
- **Political dialogue and advocacy.** Progress related to the Escazú Agreement has been heavily influenced by political dialogue and advocacy. Continued efforts in this area

remain essential for advancing ratification and implementation in countries where progress has been limited.

- **Flexibility and adaptation.** Adaptation to changing political and institutional contexts, including government transitions and the COVID-19 pandemic, emerged as an important factor influencing implementation processes. Maintaining this flexibility will remain relevant for future initiatives.

- **Lesson.** Political endorsement at the highest levels is essential for sustained progress and for the mainstreaming of environmental democracy principles.

(b) The role of regional and international cooperation

- **Regional collaboration** and South-South cooperation have contributed to knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and greater policy harmonization across countries.
- **Regional organizations** –including the Andean Community, Southern Common Market, Central American Integration System and the Caribbean Community– represent relevant partners for regional implementation efforts related to project activities and the Escazú Agreement.

- **Lesson.** Strengthened regional partnerships and cross-border collaboration enhance the effectiveness of environmental governance frameworks.

(c) Multi-stakeholder engagement strengthens policy impact

- The participation of civil society organizations, the private sector and Indigenous Peoples has enriched implementation processes and supported more inclusive policies that address the needs of vulnerable populations.
- **Strategic targeting.** Prioritization of specific countries and activities contributed to the achievement of significant results despite limited resources. This targeted approach should be continued, with a view to expanding engagement in non-ratifying countries.

- **Lesson.** Institutionalized mechanisms for participatory decision-making enhance transparency, legitimacy and public trust in environmental policies.

(d) Legislative and institutional challenges must be anticipated

- Several countries faced difficulties in harmonizing existing national legislation with the provisions of the Escazú Agreement, contributing to delays in implementation.

- **Lesson.** Early legal assessments and targeted technical assistance can support governments in navigating legislative and institutional adjustments more effectively.

2. Operational lessons learned

(a) 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 contributes to improved reporting and accountability.

(b) Capacity-building is essential for effective implementation

- Training programmes and workshops related to environmental governance, public participation and access to information contributed to improved institutional capacities.
- **Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.** The development of guidelines, road maps and training programmes was 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 was associated with better results than a one-size-fits-all approach.
- **Lesson.** Tailoring interventions to local realities, while maintaining regional coherence, is critical for long-term effectiveness.

(d) Digital platforms enhance accessibility and participation

- The use of digital tools, such as online portals for environmental information and virtual consultations, expanded access for marginalized groups and enhanced transparency.
- **Lesson.** Digital solutions can increase stakeholder engagement and support wider 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 implementation of the Escazú Agreement demonstrated better coordination and alignment across institutions.
- **Potential use.** This model can be replicated in other multilateral environmental agreements to strengthen national-level coordination.

(b) Creating multi-stakeholder platforms

- In several countries, national committees comprising government entities, civil society organizations, academia and private sector representatives were established to discuss policies related to the Escazú Agreement.
- **Potential use.** This inclusive approach can be applied to other policy areas to ensure diverse perspectives in decision-making processes.

(c) Strengthening local-level environmental justice mechanisms

- The integration of community-based mechanisms for the resolution of environmental conflicts contributed to improved access to justice.
- **Potential use.** Decentralized dispute resolution models could be replicated in other governance areas, such as land management and natural resource use.

(d) Leveraging public-private partnerships 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 society at large.
- **Potential use.** Similar partnerships could be encouraged in areas such as climate change 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)⁸.

It is expected that ECLAC's guiding principles to the evaluation process are applied⁹. In particular, special consideration will be taken to assess the extent to which ECLAC's activities and outputs respected and promoted human rights¹⁰. 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.¹¹

⁸ 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>.

⁹ See ECLAC, "Preparing and Conducting Evaluations: ECLAC Guidelines" (2024) and ECLAC, "Evaluation Policy and Strategy" (2024) for a full description of its guiding principles.

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ *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":¹²

- 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;

¹² UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, UNEG, June 2020. <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866>.

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

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 analysis¹³. 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.

¹³ 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.

Relevance:

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

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.¹⁴

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

¹⁴ Although, non-Parties countries like Peru are treated as a non-comparative reference to the target countries and to the overall Escazú Agreement.

– 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.¹⁵

Table 1
Target and extended interview sample

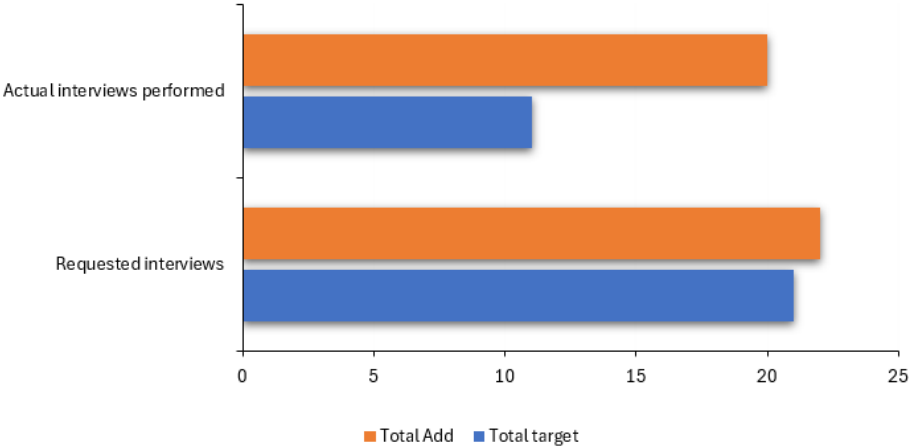
Description	Requested Interviews										
	Mexico	Uruguay	Ecuador	Saint Lucia	TOTAL TARGET	Chile	Argentina	Peru (?)	Belize	TOTAL AD	GRAND TOTAL
Target countries + New Countries	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1		3	5
Main counterpart	1	1	2	2	6	1	0	1	1	3	9
Government representatives (2)	2	1	2	1	6	2	2	2	1	7	13
Civil Society (women associations, minorities)	1	1	2	1	5	2	1	2		5	10
Direct Beneficiaries (Ins. Assoc. Union associations)	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	4	6
International organizations	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	4	6
Sub- total	5	3	8	5	21	7	5	7	3	22	43

¹⁵ See **Annex: List of Interviews** for a detailed breakdown by country and representative distribution

Description	Actual Interviews Performed										
	Mexico	Uruguay	Ecuador	Saint Lucia	TOTAL TARGET	Chile	Argentina	Peru (?)	Others (*)	TOTAL AD	GRAND 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 associations, minorities)	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2		3	4
Direct Beneficiaries (Ins. Assoc. Union associations)	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	3
International organizations	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	3
Sub- total	3	3	3	2	11	7	4	6	3	20	31

Source: Prepared by the author.

Figure 1
Interviews requested and performed



Source: Prepared by the author.

– **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.

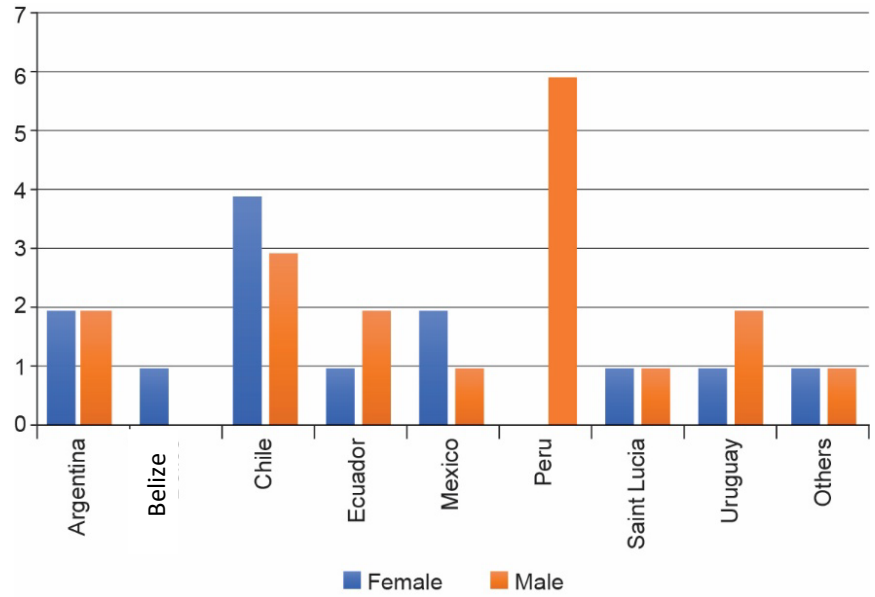
The following tables and graphs (see below) offer a detailed visualization of these findings, further supporting the evaluation's analysis.

Table 2
Interview performed by gender and 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				
Total	13	18	31	18	10	3	31

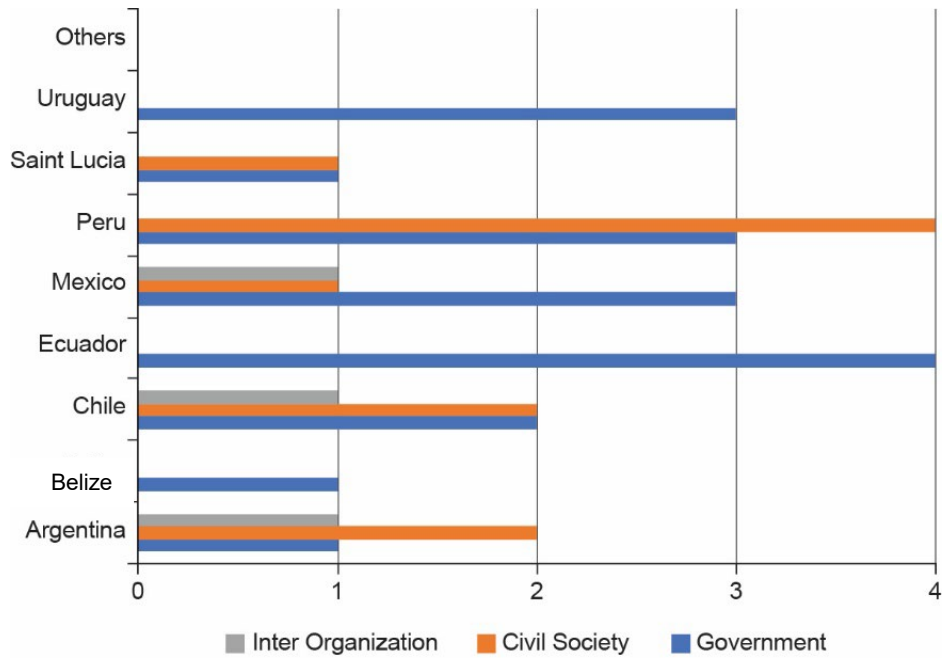
Source: Prepared by the author.

Figure 2
Interviews by gender



Source: Prepared by the author.

Figure 3
Interviews by activity



Source: Prepared by the author.

(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.

PROGRESS REPORT OUTCOMES	
OP1.1	I. Multi-stakeholder seminar to share best practices and experiences.
	II. Strengthen national capacities of governments.
	III. Prepare and discuss the regional assessment
	IV. Identified common challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities.
OP1.2	I. Updated regional assessment
	II. Support the implementation of environmental access rights
	III. Increasing capacities of government to meet obligations of the Escazu Agreement.
OP1.3	I. Enhanced the regional Observatory of Principle 10 with key information and resources to support national implementation actions and improvements.
	II. Supporting awareness-raising and capacity building efforts of the different stakeholders
OP1.4	I. Prepared different promotional materials to raise general awareness: public and vulnerable people and groups.
	II. Educate the public at large about their environmental access rights.
PROGRESS REPORT OUTCOMES	
OP2.1	I. Delivered an E-learning course on the regional agreement
	II. To raise awareness and strengthen understanding of obligations and implications of stakeholders, particularly government officials
OP2.2	I. Prepared accessible versions of the Escazu Agreement and implementation materials in different languages and formats
	II. Dissemination across sectors of society, including people and groups in vulnerable situations
OP2.3	I. Deliver national multi-stakeholder participatory capacity building workshops in each select target group
	II. Provide technical assistance to take recommended measures and actions
OP2.4	I. Organized one regional and two subregional meetings (Latin America and one for the Caribbean) for relevant stakeholders
OP2.5	I. Conducted technical advisory missions as and when required to support target countries in assessing needs and implementing work plan for action.

Source: Project Document		
PG1	Annex I (OUTCOME1)	A. Cover of the draft Escazu Agreement implementation guide
		B. Cover of national capacity assessments in Antigua and Barbuda and in Saint Lucis and OECS inventory report
		C. OECS Council of Ministers Decision (20 -21 May 2021) on the Subregional Environmental Information System and the Escazú Agreement
		D. New Layout on the Observatory Principle 120 and metrics for 2021
		E. Escazu Agreement infographic
	Annex II (OUTCOME II)	A. Inter-agency proposal to support Mexico develop a national implementation plan
		B. Illustrations for youth on Escazu Agreement
		C. Agenda of workshops in Antigua and Barbuda
		D. Agenda of workshops in Argentina
		E. Agenda List of participants and surveys results of the workshops in Belize
		F. Agenda of workshops in Saint Lucia
		G. Agenda of workshops in Uruguay
Source Progress Report 1		
PG2	Annex I (OUTCOME 1)	A. Political Declarations and decisions of the First Conference of the Parties to the Escazu Agreement
		B. Cover of the published version of the Escazu Agreement implementation guide
		C. Available 2022 Metric for the Observatory
		D. Principle 10
		E. Infographic of the Escazu Agreement on biodiversity
		F. Resolution of the Escazu Agreement by the Caribbean development and Cooperation Committee
	Annex II (OUTCOME 2)	A. Request letter received form the governments of Antigua, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, B. Saint Lucia and Uruguay
		C. Proposed model road map for national implementation fo the Escazu Agreement in target countries.
		D. Agenda list of participants and evaluation of workshops in Honduras
		E. Accessible versions of COPS and CSIC rules
		F. Agenda of First Annual Forum Human Rights Defenders in environmental matters
Source Progress Report 2		
PGR 3	Annex 1 (OUTCOME I)	A. Buenos Aires declaration and decision of the Second Conference of the Parties of the Escazu Agreement
		B. Cover of revised Implementation Guide of the Escazu Agreement
		C. Agenda of the Regional Dialogue. “Strengthening capacities for national implementation “

			D. Available 2023 metrics for the Observatory E. Principle 10
			F. Infographic on the Committee to support Implementation and Compliance
	Annex 2 (OUTCOME II)		A. Cover of the road map for national implementation B. in Ecuador.
			C. Cover of the road map for national implementation D. in Argentina
			E. Request letter from Belize
			F. Agenda of the national workshop held in Chile
			G. Presentation of the implementation plan in Argentina
			H. Agenda for the National workshop in Saint Lucia
			I. Agenda for the Second Annual Forum on human rights defenders in environmental matters.
			J. Agenda for the EIA authorities in Argentina

RELATIONAL MATRIX, OUTCOMES, INDICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTPUTS				
OUTCOMES	INDICATOR	INDICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS	ESPECIFIC ACTIVITIES
OC1		Assessments were concluded in four countries	OP1.1	(i) Organized one multi-stakeholder seminar
				(ii) Strengthen national capacities of government
				(iii) Prepare and discuss the regional assessment
				(iv) Identified. common challenges, needs, priorities and opportunities
	IA1.1		OP1.2	(i) Updated regional assessment
				(ii) Support the implementation of environmental access rights
				(iii) Increasing the capacities of governments to meet obligations of the Escazú Agreement
			OP1.3	(i) Enhanced the regional Observatory on Principle 10 with key information and resources to support national implementation action and improving
				(ii) Supporting awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts of the different stakeholders.
			OP1.4	(i) Prepared different promotional materials to raise general awareness: general public, and vulnerable persons and groups
				(ii) Educate the public at large about their environmental access rights.
OC2	IA2.1.	Roadmaps to develop strategies and work plans have been agreed in all target countries	OP2.1	(i) Delivered an e-learning course on the Regional Agreement
				(ii) To raise awareness and strengthen understanding of obligations and implications of stakeholders, particularly government officials
			OP2.2	(i) Prepared accessible versions of the Escazú Agreement and implementation materials in different languages and formats.
				(ii) Dissemination across all sectors of society, including persons and groups in vulnerable situations.

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?	Review Government plans, policies, strategies
		Does the project support the core mission and values of the country with respect to climate change and access to information?	Idem
1.2. Stakeholder Engagement	1.2.1 Stakeholder Needs:	Are the needs and expectations of stakeholders being met?	Interview/Surveys (I/S)
	1.2.2. Supply/Demand	Is there a documented "market" need or demand for the project's outcomes?	Review Government plans, policies, strategies
	1.2.3. Community Involvement:	How engaged are the government authorities or community members or target audience in the project development?	Interview/Surveys (I/S)
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 (I/S)
	2.1.2. Delays in implementation	Identify stages in the project where delays occur and determine their impact on overall efficiency.	Progress reports, disbursement rated (I/S)
2.2. Quality of Outputs	2.2.3. Client Satisfaction:	Measure satisfaction levels among stakeholders or clients using surveys or feedback forms.	Progress Report
	2.2.4. Team Performance Metrics:	Evaluate Government/ individual and team contributions to key project goals.	Operational Reports
2.3. Quality of Outputs	2.3.1. Variance Analysis:	Calculate the difference between planned and actual spending, assessing budget adherence over time.	Operational Reports
2.4. Workflow Efficiency	24.1. Task Completion Rate:	Evaluate the percentage of tasks completed on time relative to the total planned tasks.	Operational Reports
	2.4.2. Learning Rate:	Evaluate how feedback is incorporated into ongoing processes to improve efficiency over time.	Operational Reports
	2.4.3. 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 SDG	
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 (I/S)
	3.1.2. Objective Completion Rate:	Measure the percentage of project objectives that have been successfully met.	Project Analysis
		Establish specific KPIs that align with project goals and measure progress against them.	Project Analysis
3.2. Outcome Measurement	3.2.1. Contributions	Evaluate the short-term and long-term contributions of the project on its target population or stakeholders.	(I/S)

	3.2.2. Change Metrics:	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 stakeholder or client satisfaction through surveys or feedback forms to gauge perceived effectiveness.	(I/S)
		Measure adherence to established quality standards relevant to the project's deliverables.	Customer Satisfaction Surveys:
3.3. Learning and Adaptation	3.3.1. Evaluation and Learning Processes:	Measure the extent to which lessons learned from the project are documented and utilized to improve future initiatives.	Project Analysis
	3.3.2. 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.	(I/S)
	3.4.2. Demographic Diversity:	Evaluate whether the project effectively serves diverse demographic groups within the target population.	Project Analysis (I/S)
Coherence	EQ4. To what extent has partnering with other organizations enabled or enhanced reaching of results?		(I/S) Reports
4.1. Multilateral/ join Efforts	4.1.1. Institutional engagement	Were there any complementarities and synergies with other work being developed by ECLAC or by beneficiary countries?	(I/S) Reports
Sustainability	EQ5. ¿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?		
5.1. Long -lasting effects	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	o Strategies implemented to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.	Progress reports
	5.1.3. Sustainability of outcomes	o Assessment of the community's capacity to maintain the benefits obtained	(I/S)
		How long the project's benefits can persist after completion.	Policy, strategies, plans, resources budget
5.1.4. Longevity of benefits:	Conduct follow-up assessments to determine the continued impact of the project over time.	Evidence in Progress Reports	
	What were the multiplier effects generated by the programmed?	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 & Environments 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 project and its activities?	Activities review (I/S)
6.2. Specific achievements	6.2.1. SDG 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	Género	País	Cargo/Representatividad
Punto focal o contraparte	Maria Fernanda Cámara	f	MX	Ruta de implementación por publicar, Secretaría de Gobierno
Representantes del gobierno	Jose Luis Samaniego	m	MX	Ruta de implementación por publicar
Sociedad Civil: mujeres, niños, minorías	Josefina Santiago,	f	MX	Coordinadora de Pueblos Unidos por el Cuidado y la Defensa del Agua (COPUDA),
Asociaciones medioambientales	Tomás Severino,	m	MX	Cultura Ecológica, ex representante electo del público para el Acuerdo de Escazú,
International organizations	Fernanda Hopenhaym,	f	MX	Grupo de Trabajo sobre la cuestión de los DDHHs y las empresas transnacionales y otras empresas
Punto focal o contraparte	Marcelo Cousillas	m	UR	Represente del Gobierno. Ministerio del Ambiente
Sociedad Civil: mujeres, niños, minorías	Felicia Pagliano,	f	UR	Org. De la Sociedad Civil, Fridays for Future
Asociaciones medioambientales	Natalia Zaldua,	f	UR	Org. Medio ambiental "Vida Silvestre"
International organizations	Dario Fuletti,	m	UR	UNICEF + Socio estratégico
Punto focal o contraparte	Walter Schuldt	m	ECU	Cancillería. Ruta de implementación publicadas
Representantes del gobierno	Juan Diego Stacey	m	ECU	Cancillería. Ruta de implementación publicadas
Asociaciones medioambientales	Manolo Morales,	m	ECU	Director ECOLEX, Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental
International organizations	Xavier Mena	m	ECU	UN + socio estratégico
Punto focal o contraparte	Kate Wilson	f	STL	Gov. Ruta de implementación publicada
Representantes del gobierno	Uranda Xavier	f	STL	Gov. Ruta de implementación publicada
Sociedad Civil: mujeres, niños, minorías	Mabius Francis,	m	STL	Caribbean Youth Environment Network,

Sociedad Civil: mujeres, niños, minorías Asociaciones medioambientales	Mabius Francis, Bishnu Tulsie,		STL	Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Org. Medioambientales, Representante del público
Asociaciones medioambientales International organizations	Bishnu Tulsie, Chamberlain Emmanuel	m	STL	Org. Medioambientales, Representante del público Representative OECS
Asociación Medioambiente WWF	Manuel Pulgar Vidal,	m	PE	Ex Minister Envi. WWF
Sociedad Civil RES NACIONAL TAMBOPATA	Víctor Zambrano,	m	PE	Sociedad Civil, Fundación de Reserva nacional de Tambopata
Asociación Medioambiental BOSQUES	Mariano Castro,	m	PE	Medioambientalista Académico, Asesor gubernamental
Representantes EX MINISTRO AMBIENTE	Jimson Dávila,	m	PE	Ex Ministerio Ambiente (Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental):
Representante Selección de autores:	Constance Nalegach	f	CL	Selección de autores de la Guía ESCAZÚ
Sociedad Civil Directora Ejecutiva SEA,	Valentina Durán,	f	CL	Sociedad Mediambiente 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.

Uruguay
En Uruguay, varias organizaciones se dedican a la protección del medioambiente y al impulso de políticas sostenibles:
1. Movimiento Tacuarembó por el Medioambiente (MOTAM)
Descripción: 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. Áreas de acción: Conservación de la flora y fauna, campañas contra la deforestación, y educación ambiental. Sitio web: No tienen una página web, pero suelen tener presencia en redes sociales y medios locales. Contacto: A través de redes sociales, principalmente en Facebook. No fue invitado a ninguna actividad de Escazú.
2. Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas de América Latina (RAP-AL Uruguay)
Descripción: 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. Áreas de acción: Uso de pesticidas, defensa de la salud humana y ambiental, educación sobre alternativas ecológicas a los productos químicos. Sitio web: www.rap-al.org Contacto: rapal.uruguay@gmail.com . No fue invitado a ninguna actividad de Escazú.
3. Fundación Vida Silvestre Uruguay
Descripción: 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. Áreas de acción: Conservación de especies, restauración de hábitats, desarrollo de políticas públicas ambientales. No tenían recursos para asistir a un taller en Argentina relacionado a Escazú. Sitio web: www.vidasilvestre.org.uy Contacto: info@vidasilvestre.org.uy

<p>4. Cambio Verde</p> <p>Descripción: 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. Áreas de acción: 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.</p> <p>Sitio web: www.cambioverde.org.uy Contacto: info@cambioverde.org.uy</p>
Mexico
<p>1. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)</p> <p>Descripción: 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. Áreas de acción: Biodiversidad, conservación de especies, investigación científica, desarrollo de políticas públicas. Sitio web: www.conabio.gob.mx</p>
<p>2. WWF México (World Wide Fund for Nature)</p> <p>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</p>
<p>3. Semarnat (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales)</p> <p>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 forúms.</p> <p>Sitio web: www.gob.mx/semarnat</p>
Ecuador
<p>1. Fundación EcoCiencia</p> <p>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</p>
<p>2. Fundación Pachamama</p> <p>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 forúms. 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</p>
<p>3. Acción Ecológica</p> <p>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</p>
<p>4. Fundación Yasuní</p> <p>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.</p>

Sitio web: 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.slunatrust.org . No information about Escazu.
Sitio web: www.slunatrust.org
2. The Saint Lucia Forest and Lands Conservation (SLFLC)
Description: 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: www.slflc.org (may not be up to date, as the organization has a social media presence primarily)
3. Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
Description: 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: www.canari.org
4. Saint Lucia Conservation Fund
Description: 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: www.stluciefund.org

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.

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
11th Tranche Development Account project “Enhancing Coordination, Coherence and Effectiveness in Implementing the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean”
Annual reports of advance
DA project criteria
Documents available at the ECLAS Data Base (Microsoft Team provided by the Evaluation Unit)
Evaluation surveys
National and regional policies and strategies: Peru, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Belize
Project 1617Z “Addressing critical socio-environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean”
Project Document 13th Tranche of the Development Account
News Paper Publications
Reports from technical assistance missions
Sustainable Management of Mining Resources in the Andean Countries that ECLAC executes in conjunction with the German Agency for International Cooperation
The project document
Workshops and meetings reports
www.observatoryp10.cepal.org
1. Governmental Reports and Official Documents
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (2021). <i>Implementation Guide of the Escazú Agreement.</i>
Government of Belize. (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.
2. Civil Society Publications
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). (2024). <i>Advancing the Implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Promoting Access to Justice in Climate Issues.</i>
World Resources Institute (WRI). (2023). <i>The Escazú Agreement: Seeking Rights to Information, Participation, and Justice for the Most Vulnerable.</i>
3. Academic Articles and Research Papers
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>
4. Private Sector and Multi-Stakeholder Resources
Open Government Partnership (OGP). (2023).
World Justice Project (WJP) & Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). (2023).



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