ANNEX 1
APPLICATION FORM

***** ALL FORMS RECEIVED WILL BE PUBLISHED *****

PLEASE SEND TO SECRETARIA.ESCAZU@CEPAL.ORG BY 10 AUGUST 2026 (11:59 PM SANTIAGO, CHILE TIME), WORD FORMAT (DOCX) ONLY.

Please select as applicable:

	YES	NO
I am a national or resident of a Latin American and Caribbean country of Annex I of the Escazú Agreement	☐	☐
I am registered in the Regional Public Mechanism by the closing date of the electoral register (31 July 2026)	☐	☐
I am employed or have been employed in any branch of the State, national or sub-national, within the 12 months prior to the election	☐	☐

a. Personal details



1) Full name: DYLIS MCDONALD

2) Gender: FEMALE

3) Date of birth (day/month/year): 27/12/1972

4) Nationality: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

5) Country of residence: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

6) E-mail, for communications with the public: dylis@canari.org

b. Subregion. Indicate the electoral sub-region for which you are running according to your nationality or country of residence **(select ONE):**

Subregion 1. ☐
Subregion 2. ☐
Subregion 3. ☐

c. Languages

Level of Spanish:

Oral:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐
Written:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐

Level of English:

Oral:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐
Written:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐

Other language (please specify)

Oral:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐
Written:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐

d. Letter or statement of motivation for applying for the role (600-1000 words maximum):

I submit this application for my candidacy for election as one of the representatives of the public of the Caribbean subregion under the Escazú Agreement for the 2026 – 2030 term with a deep and demonstrated commitment to the principles the Agreement enshrines: the right of every person in Latin America and the Caribbean to access environmental information, participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their environment, and obtain justice when those rights are denied. For over a decade, my professional life has been dedicated to translating these principles into practical, on-the-ground change for Caribbean communities, and I believe I can bring that experience, and a clear vision for the role, to the service of the region's public.

As a Senior Technical Officer at the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), a regional civil society organisation working across the Caribbean on natural resource governance, I have spent much of my career at the intersection of environmental governance, human rights and civil society empowerment — the very space the Escazú Agreement was created to protect. I was among the civil society voices calling on the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to sign and ratify the Agreement, and I have continued that advocacy consistently since, including through recent parliamentary engagement bringing legislators, regulators and civil society together to discuss the Agreement's role in strengthening environmental democracy in my own country. This sustained engagement with both the promise and the practical challenges of the Agreement is, I believe, precisely the perspective the public's representatives are meant to bring to this role.

My current portfolio gives me direct, sustained experience with the three pillars of the Agreement. I lead technical work under EnviroRightsTT, an EU-funded initiative building the capacity of civil society organisations and community members in Trinidad and Tobago to access environmental information, participate in environmental policymaking and pursue environmental justice — implementing Escazú's core commitments at the community level. Through this work, I engage regularly with national institutions as well as regional and international partners; to close the gap between the rights the Agreement guarantees on paper and the lived experience of persons seeking to exercise them. I have also co-moderated a meeting of a Parliamentary Caucus on 'The Escazú Agreement as a tool for climate governance and environmental democracy in Trinidad and Tobago', co-convening parliamentarians, legal practitioners and civil society around the Agreement's implementation.

Since 2023, through my role at CANARI, I have played an active part in the regional convening work supporting Escazú Agreement implementation across the Caribbean, including a series

of webinars bringing together Caribbean civil society organisations around the Agreement's implementation. I have co-facilitated, and participated in these sessions, helping to ensure that Caribbean civil society is aware of, and able to participate meaningfully in, initiatives led by the Escazú Agreement Secretariat, including opportunities for engagement with the Conference of the Parties and the Environmental Defenders Forum and other processes. Throughout this work, I regularly engage with national and regional institutions and Caribbean civil society networks on matters of environmental governance and access rights. This regional vantage point means I do not view Escazú issues solely through a Trinidad and Tobago lens, but through the varied realities of Caribbean Small Island Developing States — from access-to-information gaps, to capacity constraints facing small civil society organisations, to the particular vulnerability of Caribbean environmental defenders working on a wide range of issues of vital importance to the region's sustainability and future.

Prior to joining CANARI, I served as Head of Office at the Caribbean Women in Leadership Secretariat, where I led regional programming on gender equality and women's leadership across nine National Chapters, managed relationships with a Regional Board, and built the coordination systems needed to sustain a multi-country civil society network. That experience sharpened my understanding of how structural inequality shapes access to information, participation and justice, and it directly informs the intersectional lens I now bring to environmental governance work — including my role as CANARI's in-house gender and social inclusion specialist, ensuring environmental governance processes account for the differentiated ways that women, youth, indigenous peoples and other groups and people who are marginalised and experience environmental harm and access decision-making spaces. This is directly relevant to the Agreement's attention to persons in vulnerable situations, and to its provisions on the protection of environmental human rights defenders, an issue I regard as among the most urgent facing our region. My postgraduate training in human rights law has further sharpened my understanding of the legal architecture underpinning these protections, and of how regional mechanisms like Escazú can be used strategically to reinforce them.

If elected, I would bring to the role a working knowledge of how Caribbean civil society organisations operate, what obstacles they face in exercising their Escazú rights, and how to build genuine bridges between the public, national authorities and the Agreement's regional bodies. I would prioritise three things: first, amplifying the voices of Caribbean civil society and environmental defenders in the Agreement's implementation processes, including in countries that have not yet ratified; second, supporting the practical implementation of access rights in the Caribbean with limited institutional capacity, particularly information systems, participatory mechanisms and access-to-justice pathways sized for small administrations; and third, strengthening the visibility of the Agreement among Caribbean parliamentarians, regulators and the wider public, building on the convening work I already do in this space. Across all three, I would draw on my established networks among Caribbean civil society, regional institutions and legislators to reflect the region's diversity of experience in the Agreement's ongoing implementation.

I am confident that my combination of academic grounding in international relations, development and human rights law, together with sustained, practical experience implementing Escazú-aligned work across the Caribbean, positions me to serve the region's public effectively and with integrity in this role. I would be honoured to serve as a representative

of the public and to contribute to the continued advancement of environmental democracy in the Caribbean and Latin America.

e. Education and relevant experience: indicate your education and experience in matters related to the Escazú Agreement

Education
I hold a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, completed in 2006. This degree provided advanced training in international human rights law and mechanisms, including the frameworks for protecting environmental human rights defenders, access to justice, and the human rights obligations of States in relation to the environment — areas of direct relevance to the Escazú Agreement's provisions on human rights defenders (Article 9) and access to justice (Article 8).

I also hold a Msc. in International Relations and Development from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, completed in 1999. This programme built a strong grounding in multilateral governance, international treaty regimes, and sustainable development frameworks, equipping me to navigate the intergovernmental architecture within which the Escazú Agreement operates, including its Conference of the Parties, Secretariat, and Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance.

Relevant Experience
I am a human rights advocate and social development specialist whose career has spanned environmental governance, gender equality, human rights and women's leadership across the Caribbean.

Since November 2023, I have served as Senior Technical Officer at the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in Trinidad and Tobago. In this role, I lead technical work under EnviroRightsTT (2023 – 2026), an EU-funded project building the capacity of civil society organisations and community members to exercise their Escazú-protected rights to access environmental information, participate in environmental decision-making, and pursue environmental justice. I also work to provide an intersectional lens to environmental governance work, with particular attention to persons and groups in vulnerable situations – a perspective the Agreement itself embeds in its provisions on equity and non-discrimination.

At the regional level I have worked to advance gender equality and human rights. I have been responsible for the successful management of the regional programmes and the high-quality implementation of all projects, reporting periodically to donors and regional boards; led project team and served as focal point for the technical, programmatic and operational delivery of projects and provided coordination support to national offices and chapters through technical assistance, mentoring, training, cross-country learning and exchange, and broader capacity development initiatives, including the design of training materials, sessions and workshops.

Together, this trajectory from regional gender and human rights programme management to hands-on Escazú implementation work has given me both the institutional experience to manage a demanding regional mandate and the substantive, technical grounding in access

rights, environmental human rights defenders, and inclusive governance that the role of representative of the public requires.

f. Time availability: please explain your time availability and commitment to perform the functions of representative of the public

I confirm my full availability and commitment to fulfil the responsibilities of a representative of the public under the Escazú Agreement for the duration of the 2026 – 2030 term, including participation in meetings of the Conference of the Parties, sessions of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, intersessional consultations and working groups, and the ongoing communication and coordination the role requires between sessions.

My current responsibilities at CANARI are closely aligned with, rather than in competition with, the functions of this role: a substantial part of my existing portfolio already involves regional convening, coordination with the Escazú Secretariat, and engagement with Caribbean civil society on access rights. CANARI has indicated its support for this candidacy and my continued engagement in this capacity recognising the complementarity between the two mandates.

I am able to commit required time to representative-of-the-public duties, and I am available to travel internationally to attend in-person sessions as required, alongside participating remotely in intersessional meetings. I have no foreseen commitments during this term that would conflict with, or limit, my ability to serve fully and reliably in this role.

g. Other relevant information

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