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# IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON ACCESS RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY INDEX

August 24, 2015

CAROLE EXCELL

# THE ACCESS INITIATIVE (TAI)

**Est. in 1999:** WRI as  
Secretariat

**NETWORK** of **200+** civil  
society organizations in **50+**  
countries

**MISSION:** to strengthen public  
rights to participate in  
environmental decision-  
making through evidence-  
based advocacy

**PARTNERS:** Jamaica, St.  
Lucia, Dominican Republic,  
Trinidad, Guyana





# MEASURING ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY?

**INFORMATION** → publicly available, accessible, and relevant environmental information

**PARTICIPATION** → meaningful opportunities for the public to shape decisions that have environmental impacts

**JUSTICE** → accountability and grievance mechanisms to enforce laws and compensate for harms

# WHAT IS EDI?

**70** Countries with **140** legal experts

**4 English speaking Caribbean countries**

**75** Legal Indicators scored to create the index

**24** Supplemental Practice Indicators provide key insights

## **EDI Legal Index:**

Measures relevant and legally-binding national laws and regulations

## **Practice Indicators:**

Provide key insights on environmental democracy in practice (not comprehensive)

# KEY FINDINGS – PROVISIONAL RESULTS

- **Top ten countries: Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, United State (tied), South Africa (tied), United Kingdom, Hungary, Bulgaria, Panama and Colombia**
- **Better legal protection in Aarhus Convention countries**
- **Wealth is important, but it's not the only factor**

# CARIBBEAN FINDINGS

- | Country             | ENGLISH SPEAKING<br>CARIBBEAN RANKING<br>OVERALL ACROSS ALL<br>PILLARS | GLOBAL RANKING<br>OVERALL |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | 1  | 26                        |
| JAMAICA             | 2  | 51                        |
| BELIZE              | 3  | 61                        |
| ST. LUCIA           | 4  | 64                        |

# RANKING GLOBALLY OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

COUNTRY	EDI RANKING ACCESS TO INFORMATION	EDI RANKING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	EDI RANKING ACCESS TO JUSTICE
TRINIDAD	22	49	7
JAMAICA	49	61	40
BELIZE	54	67	57
ST. LUCIA	59	70	51

# NOTES ON METHODS

- Does not measure: subnational laws, certain sectoral laws, broader governance issues (corruption, civil society space)
- Practice indicators not comprehensive
- Scores provisional until August 31st





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**THANK YOU!**

[www.environmentaldemocracyindex.org](http://www.environmentaldemocracyindex.org)

[ldesilva@wri.org](mailto:ldesilva@wri.org) / [jworker@wri.org](mailto:jworker@wri.org) | [cexcell@wri.org](mailto:cexcell@wri.org)