

Results of the Public consultation on the proposed  
Annotated Index of the Action Plan on human rights  
defenders in environmental matters in Latin America and  
the Caribbean

Presentation by the Coordinators of the Ad hoc  
Working Group



**Acuerdo  
de Escazú**

# Background of the public consultation

- Objective of the Action plan: “... will aim to establish a set of **priority areas of work and strategic actions** to be **developed at the regional level** to advance towards the full and effective implementation of Article 9...”
- The proposed index has a **progressive and flexible approach** based on **cooperation and capacity building**, the principle of **equality and non-discrimination** and **special consideration for people and groups in vulnerable situations**.
- **Timeframe: 6 years (April 2024-April 2030), with interim progress reviews.**
- The **5 proposed workstreams** are: knowledge, recognition, capacity building and cooperation, support for implementation, and follow-up and review, which are complementary to each other.
- **Public consultation:**
  - Deadline: 21 April (COP2)- 6 July (extended)
  - Survey through the digital platform of the RPM
  - Surveys by e-mail were also received
- **Questions in the survey about:**
  - overall evaluation of the proposal
  - level of approval of the 5 proposed workstreams
  - prioritization of the proposed courses of action of each workstreams
  - comments on the elements to be considered in the actions

# Surveys received from the public

By the platform	178
By e-mail	59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>

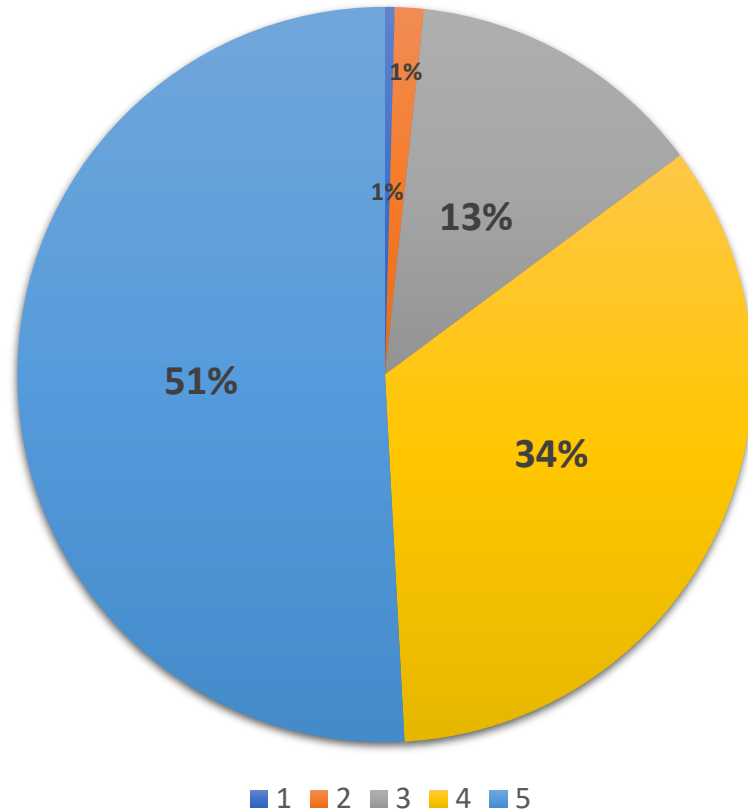
## Individuals vs. legal entities:

- Individual: 113
- On behalf of an organization: 124
  - Public institutions: 11
  - Civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, other\*: 112
  - Not specified: 1

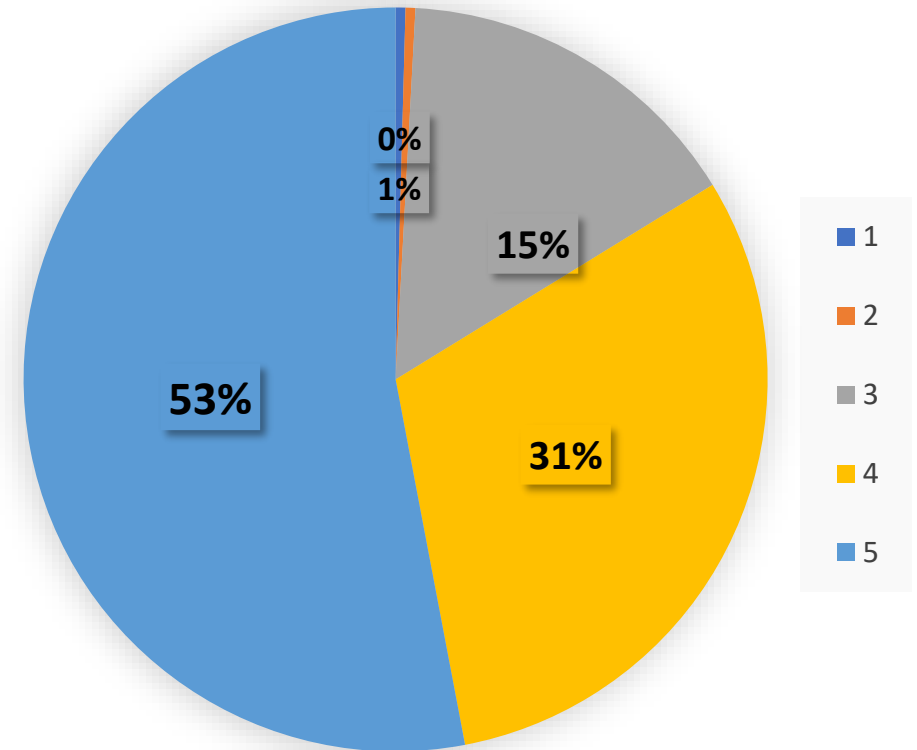
Argentina	27
Bolivia	7
Brasil	10
Chile	14
Colombia	18
Costa Rica	3
Ecuador	5
El Salvador	66
Guatemala	23
México	25
Nicaragua	3
Panamá	1
Paraguay	1
Perú	10
Santa Lucía	1
Uruguay	4
Venezuela	4
Not specified	15

# Level of approval of the proposal in general (linear scale from 1 to 5)

Level of approval of the proposal in general



Level of approval of the 5 work streams



# Evaluation and priorities of each workstreams

## 1) First workstream on "Knowledge"

Course of action	Priority order from 1 to 4
a. Generation of assessments about the situation of human rights defenders.	123 (1)
b. Compilation of good practices on national mechanisms for prevention, protection, and response.	49 (2)
d. Continuity of the Forum on human rights defenders in environmental matters.	37 (3)
c. Strengthening the content related to human rights defenders in environmental matters of the Principle 10 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean.	14 (4)

## 2) Second workstream on "Recognition"

Course of action	Priority order from 1 to 4
b. Raising awareness activities and communication campaigns.	96 (1)
d. Dialogues and thematic exchanges with justice operators.	78 (2)
a. Commemoration activities	25 (3)
c. Partnerships and participation in Business and Human Rights Forums	18 (4)

### 3) Third workstream on capacity building and cooperation

Course of action	Priority order from 1 to 6
b. Guidelines for the establishment of individual and collective prevention and protection mechanisms	71 (1)
a. Technical assistance to Parties for Implementation of art. 9 (national implementation plans)	55 (2)
c. Incorporation of the gender perspective and the intersectional and intercultural approach in mechanisms.	38 (3)
f. Articulation and collaboration with other existing protection mechanisms	30 (4)
d. Training activities	20 (5)
e. Training materials	6 (6)

### 4) Fourth workstream on Implementation Support

Course of action	Priority order from 1 to 2
a. Support for the <u>development</u> of policies, plans, mechanisms and/or measures.	149 (1)
b. Support for the <u>implementation</u> of policies, plans, mechanisms, and/or measures.	88 (2)

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## 5) Fifth workstream on follow-up and review of the action plan

Course of action	Priority order from 1 to 4
a. To maintain the Working Group for the follow-up and review of actions.	88 (1)
d. Rapid response system within the framework of the work and functions of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance	81 (2)
b. Fundraising for the voluntary contribution fund	49 (3)
c. Periodic information from the Parties on art. 9	6 (4)

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# General comments and suggestions from the public to be included in the action plan:

- **Standardize language on HRDEM:** Do not use “personas Defensoras” (because the collective component is excluded), instead use individuals, groups and organizations that defend human rights in environmental matters.
- **Objective of the plan:** to develop concrete actions to move towards implementation.
- **Execution period of the plan/timeframe:** instead of a single mid-term review, establish reviews every 2 years and be able to leave a margin for adjustments.
- **Action Plan’s approach and principles:** to include gender perspective, preventive and precautionary principles, non regression, intergenerational justice and HR, intersectional approach, urgency.
- **Workstreams:** suggestions for wording, reordering of some workstreams and the inclusion of new topics on:
  - access to justice, redress, restorative justice and accompanying of EHRD
  - participation of the public and inclusion
  - A special fund or financing facility
- **Some proposals to improve the document are:** (i) linkage between the regional action plan and national measures or plans; (ii) relationship between the paragraphs of Art. 9 and the work streams of the plan; (iii) distinction between knowledge and recognition work streams; (iv) greater collaboration with other existing regional and international mechanisms; (v) greater coordination with the private sector; and (viii) greater recognition of self-protection practices and possible synergies.
- **Elements to be considered in each course of action:** compliance indicators, means of verification, participatory mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of results



# Next steps

- 6 July-mid August: Systematization, analysis and publication of results
- 31 August 2023: Open virtual meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group
- September: elaboration of the draft of the action plan
- 26-28 September: Second annual Forum HRDEM (consultation in breakout groups)
- October-November: Systematization results of the Forum and preparation of the public consultation
- November-December (tbc): Public consultation
- 22-24 April 2024: COP3 (consideration and adoption of the action plan)