Online workshop “Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Suriname”

13 July 2021
Basic facts about the Escazú Agreement

Adopted in Escazú (Costa Rica) on 4 March 2018
Entered into force on 22 April 2021

- Only treaty stemming from the UN Rio+20 Conference
- First regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Latest Multilateral Environmental Agreement to be adopted at the UN
- First treaty in the world with specific binding provisions on environmental human rights defenders

Open to the 33 LAC countries
Adopted by 24 countries
24 have signed it
12 ratifications

Adoption ceremony at Escazú (Costa Rica), 4 March 2018
Objective (art. 1)

Guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of environmental access rights and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation contributing to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.
Underlying basis of the Escazú Agreement

Environmental issues are best handled with the active participation of all concerned.

Access to environmental information is critical for sound policy-making.

Environmental harm must be prevented and remedied.

Regional cooperation is key.
Salient features of the Escazú Agreement

- Rights-based
- People-centered
- Leave no one behind
- Capacity-building and cooperation

Environmental dimension of sustainable development

- Generation and access to environmental knowledge and information
- Meaningful engagement of all sectors of society
- Redress and remedy against environmental harm

Special consideration of Small Island Developing States

Implementation support
Progressive realization
Environmental information

- Access to information (art. 5)
  - Accessibility
  - Refusal of access
  - Conditions for delivery (format, timeframes, cost)
  - Independent review mechanisms

- Generation and dissemination of information (art. 6)
  - Environmental information systems
  - PRTRs
  - Disasters / early warning systems
  - Report on State of Environment
  - Information for consumers and users
  - Company sustainability reports
By enhancing access to data, knowledge, and information, and by engaging vulnerable groups, it upholds fundamental values of democratic life and fosters responsive public policies.

When the agreement enters into force and is implemented, countries will be better placed to preserve their strategic natural heritage through more inclusive and community-oriented actions.
Contact

Secretariat – Escazú Agreement
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
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http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement
http://observatorioriop10.cepal.org

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