Advocacy Strategy on the Escazú Agreement
(draft February 2020)

Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)

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Rationale: Why advocacy on the Escazú Agreement?

• The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement) is the first environmental treaty in the region.

• It was adopted on March 4, 2018 after two years of preparatory meetings (2012-2014) and nine meetings of the Negotiating Committee established in 2014 with the significant participation of the public, including Caribbean civil society.

• The Regional Agreement opened for signature of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean from September 27, 2018 through September 26, 2020. To enter into force, 11 State Parties are required to sign and ratify the Agreement.

• To November 19, 2019, 21 countries have signed and 5 of these have also ratified. Only 7 of the PISCES target countries have so far signed: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The latter two countries have also ratified.

• Signing and ratification of the Escazú Agreement can help to significantly strengthen the mechanisms for participatory environmental governance in PISCES target countries. This is a critical opportunity for a targeted advocacy campaign by civil society that will help to achieve the project target of “Civil society more effectively engaged in decision-making processes for marine and coastal resources governance and management in at least 5 local, national and/or regional initiatives by 2020”.
Advocacy goal:

By September 26, 2020, at least 5 more Caribbean countries will have signed and ratified the Escazú Agreement.
### Proposed advocacy target countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PISCES country</th>
<th>Signed Escazu</th>
<th>Ratified Escazu</th>
<th>Target for PISCES advocacy campaign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bahamas</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advocacy champions:

Leading civil society organisations (CSOs) in each of the target countries and operating at the regional level, including for example:

- **Regional**: CANARI and Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)*
- **Antigua and Barbuda**: Environmental Awareness Group (EAG)*
- **Jamaica**: Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)*
- **Saint Lucia**: Saint Lucia National Trust*
- **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**: Sustainable Grenadines Inc. (SusGren)*
- **Trinidad and Tobago**: CANARI, The Cropper Foundation (TCF), EquiGov, Environment TOBAGO (ET)

*PISCES Co-applicants and partners

To be confirmed
Advocacy allies:

• “Representatives of the public” from Caribbean civil society: Danielle Andrade from JET and Karetta Crooks from SLNT who engaged in negotiating the Escazú Agreement

• The Access Initiative: Global civil society network, already supporting some Caribbean CSOs advocating on the Escazú Agreement

• UN ECLAC: Functioning as technical secretariat and a source of information

• Amnesty International: Is providing free tools and technical support to CANARI and a few other Caribbean CSOs with the use of digital advocacy tools in campaigns calling for signature and ratification of the Escazú Agreement
## Target stakeholders, messages, products and pathways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Messages</th>
<th>Products and pathways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • CSOs with roles, responsibilities and interests in environmental governance | Civil society should demand that governments sign and ratify the Escazú Agreement to end attacks against environmental defenders, to give citizens access to information on projects that pollute our natural resources and to recognize that our voices are key when making decisions about projects that would affect the environment that we all depend on. | • Social media (Facebook, Twitter)  
• Websites, online platforms  
• Direct emails, telephone calls, What’s App messages  
• National workshop                                                                 |
| • Ministries with responsibility for environmental management  
• Cabinet of Ministers  
• Attorney General’s Office  
• Ministries of Foreign Affairs | Signing and ratifying the Escazú Agreement would be a key step forward for environmental protection in our country, help us to combat climate change and reduce socio-environmental conflict. It would strengthen environmental policies and projects in the country through greater transparency and citizen participation. We citizens must be seen as key allies for environmental protection and climate action. The Escazú Agreement would give us more tools to contribute more constructively and effectively to this important work. | • In-person meetings  
• Direct emails, telephone calls, What’s App messages, faxes  
• Print media, television and radio talk shows  
• National workshop |
Schedule:

• **July-September 2019**: Pilot national workshop and digital campaign tools in T&T

• **November to December 2019**: Mobilise national CSO champions. Launch regional survey on opportunities and needs for environmental advocacy.

• **February 2020**: Launch regional campaign and hold orientation webinar.

• **March to May 2020**: Conduct capacity building on environmental advocacy e.g. regional workshop, webinars. Develop national campaign plans and materials

• **May to September 2020**: Implement national advocacy campaigns

• **September 2020**: Promote civil society calls in line with UNGA high level events in New York and closing of signature period on September 26, 2020.

• **October-December 2020**: Evaluate results and lessons
Resources:

• The PISCES project will support:
  • Mobilisation of national CSO champions
  • Technical support with development of national campaign plans
  • Production of advocacy materials
  • Knowledge sharing and collaboration across countries engaged in national campaigns and with allies in the region and internationally
  • Use of the Caribbean Civil Society SDGs Knowledge Platform hosted by CANARI

• Amnesty International will support:
  • Use of digital advocacy tools in national campaigns

• Additional funds are needed to support:
  • Conduct of a national workshop or other meetings (venue, refreshments, transport)
  • Time of national CSO champions