



## **Trinidad and Tobago accedes to the Escazú Agreement, advancing the right to a healthy environment**

For immediate release

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, January 29, 2026** — The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) warmly congratulates the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on its decision to become a Party to the Escazú Agreement, the landmark regional treaty that promotes access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making, access to justice in environmental matters, and the protection of environmental human rights defenders.

CANARI welcomes this important step as a strong demonstration of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to transparency, inclusive governance, and environmental democracy. The Escazú Agreement provides a robust framework to strengthen environmental governance while empowering citizens and communities to play an active role in decisions that affect their environment, livelihoods, and well-being.



*Participants at the EnviroRightsTT Civil Society Town Hall (June 2025), convened by CANARI, which brought together civil society, legal experts and community advocates to strengthen access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice in Trinidad and Tobago. Through the EnviroRightsTT project and other initiatives, CANARI has supported capacity building, dialogue and practical tools that advance the pillars of the Escazú Agreement at the national level, helping to lay the groundwork for today's milestone commitment. Credit: CANARI.*

CANARI Executive Director Nicole Leotaud, who also currently serves as one of six Elected Representatives of the Public for the Escazú Agreement noted that “Becoming a Party to the Escazú Agreement provides an important framework to strengthen environmental governance and advance the right to a healthy environment. Trinidad and Tobago joins a growing number of Caribbean countries committed to ensuring that environmental decision-making is open, participatory, and grounded in respect for human rights.”

CANARI notes that effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement can support national efforts to address pressing environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and

sustainable land and marine resource management. The Agreement also offers important protections for environmental defenders, recognising their vital role in safeguarding nature and promoting sustainable development.

CANARI stands ready to support the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and continue its close collaboration with civil society organisations, community groups, and other stakeholders in translating the principles and commitments of the Escazú Agreement into meaningful action on the ground. Collaborative implementation will be essential to ensure that the benefits of the Agreement are realised by all, particularly persons in vulnerable and marginalised communities. CANARI keenly looks forward to continued engagement and partnership as Trinidad and Tobago advances environmental governance in line with the spirit and obligations of the Escazú Agreement.

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**About CANARI:** The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit institute which has been working across the Caribbean for more than 35 years. Our mission is to promote and facilitate stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean. Our work focuses on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Equity and Justice, Participatory Governance and Resilience. For more information, see: <http://www.canari.org/>

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