

# THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT: Promoting the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity



Public participation and access to information and knowledge are essential to **protect and sustainably manage ecosystems**. The **Escazú Agreement** contributes to taking actions for nature in **Latin America and the Caribbean**.

## The challenge

- Preserve, restore, value and sustainably manage ecosystems, species and their genetic diversity.
- Prevent, halt and reverse biodiversity loss and degradation.
- Live in harmony with nature.



## How to tackle it

- Fulfilling the CBD objectives and embracing nature and ecosystem-based solutions.
- Generating and giving access to information on biodiversity, ecosystems and related services.
- Ensuring everyone's full and effective participation and the consideration of local knowledge in policies and actions for sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Combating crimes and illegal activities against the environment.
- Protecting those who work in defense of the environment and nature.



## Why does it matter?

- Ecosystems support all forms of life. The health of the planet and its peoples depends on them.
- Biodiversity is deteriorating at an unprecedented rate. Up to a million species could become extinct in the short term.
- Latin America and the Caribbean** is an exceptionally biocultural rich region: it has a large number of megadiverse countries, 24% of terrestrial ecoregions and 18% of marine ones in the world



## The Escazú Agreement

Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Access, generation and dissemination of environmental information.

Art. 6.3 Art. 6.7

Public participation in decision-making processes that have or may have a significant impact on the environment.

Art. 7.2 Art. 7.3

Access to justice in environmental matters.

Art. 8.3

Recognition and protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters.

Art. 4.6 Art. 9

Cooperation and information-sharing in relation to all aspects of illicit activities against the environment.

Art. 11.5

## Convention on Biological Diversity



Cartagena Protocol  
Nagoya Protocol

Promote education and awareness in the conservation of biological diversity.

Art. 12a Art. 13

Exchange information from all publicly available sources relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Art. 17

Environmental impact assessments with public participation, when appropriate.

Art. 14a

Respect and preserve knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.

Art. 8j

Full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation.

Preamble



CMS

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Art. V.5



Convention on Wetlands



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Art. 6.3



## Recommendations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:



- Adopt urgent, transformative, participatory and inclusive measures in favor of nature with a rights-based approach.
- Promote transparency and the generation of data and information on the state of biological diversity, measures adopted and results.
- Prepare or update national strategies and action plans on biodiversity with the significant involvement of all stakeholders.
- Guarantee that the decision-making process for the effective management of biological diversity ensures the effective and equitable participation of the public and respects the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Ensure a safe and enabling environment for nature defenders.

## Regional developments

100%

33 out of 33 countries have submitted at least one National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) under the CBD. Of them, 26 have presented two or more NBSAPs.

52%

17 out of 33 countries incorporate express references to biological diversity or any of its components in their constitutions.

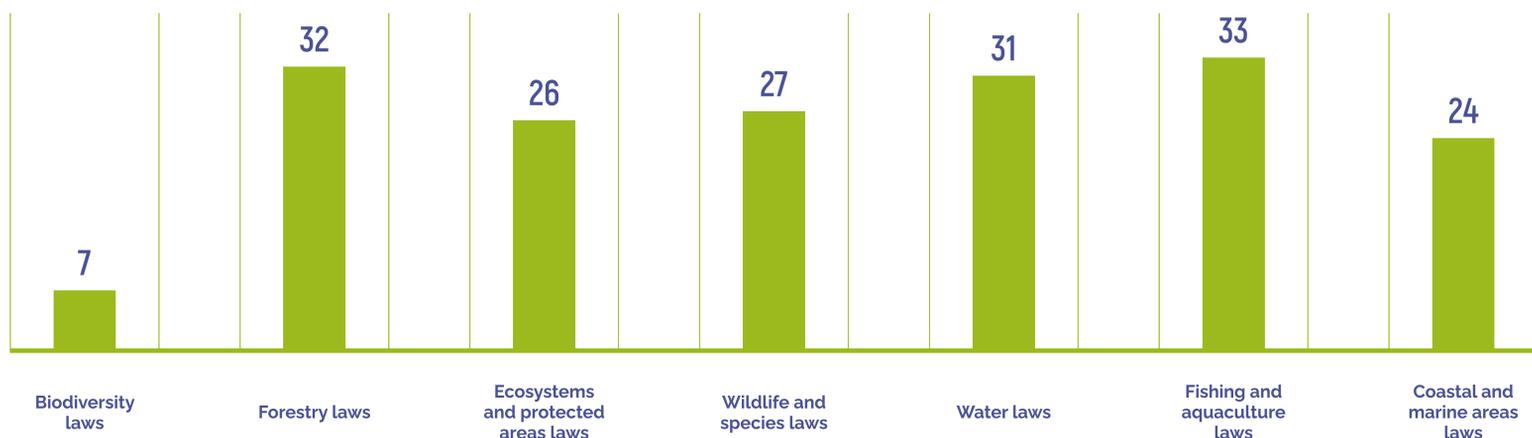
21%

7 out of 33 countries have biodiversity laws, all of them with provisions related to information and participation.

33 out of 33 countries are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

24 out of 33 countries have signed the Escazú Agreement, 13 are Parties to it.

## Legislation on biodiversity and its components in Latin America and Caribbean



Source: Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.



## More information:

Secretariat – Escazú Agreement  
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division.  
<http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>  
<http://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en>



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