

**Update on the implementation of WCC-2020-Res-051
Regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. April 2022**

The WCC-2020-Res-051 resolution CALLS ON the Director General, through the corresponding programmes, the Commission on Environmental Law and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, with the available resources, to:

- a.** Provide technical support to all members in Latin America and the Caribbean, including States and government bodies, in the implementation of the Escazu Agreement;
- b.** Support the development of the skills of IUCN Members in Latin America and the Caribbean in issues such as: access to information, access to justice, citizen participation, environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment processes, the rights of environmentalists and human rights; and
- c.** share with the members in Latin America and the Caribbean material created by IUCN on the rights to access environmental materials (manuals, guidelines, and publications), and promote events and activities in order to ensure wide dissemination and the building of capacities in the entire region.

I. Implementation of Clauses (a) and (c)

As to the implementation of the WCC 2020 Res 051051 resolution related **to clause a and c**, the main highlights/update of the work undertaken by IUCN members, commissions and the secretariat at the ORMACC and SUR regions are as follow:

2021



- Several knowledge exchanges and learning sessions, called "**Escazu Thursdays with IUCN**", have been organized by the IUCN Mesoamerica, Caribbean and South America Regional Committees, the CEEESP and the Alianza de Derecho Ambiental y Agua -ADA2, an IUCN Member in Guatemala, with support of ORMACC. Four sessions took place between 15 July-12 August, 2021

- The results and experiences, as well as the lessons learned from these sessions, were recorded in the Final Report, shared with Members from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America. The report is available at: <https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/202109/dialogue-forum-escazu-agreement-a-pioneer-regional-environmental-instrument>



- Within the context of the BRIDGE project, a practical session (case studies) was organized and presented jointly by ORMACC and SUR including members organizations and commission members in the framework of showing cases for practical application of the Escazu agreement (November 2021).

Link to the Webinar:

https://reforestamos-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/emilio_reforestamos_org/ESdkyakRE0BBsDjNKn8wrh4B53rsvKqx3AoaA1dOBAEFvQ?e=onleOq

2022



Conservation NGOs at risk

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and shrinking environmental civic spaces

Dr. Peter Bille Larsen

The Environmental Governance and Territorial Development Institute (GEDT)
University of Geneva

February 2022

- Participation of IUCN ORMACC and CEESP representatives at the launching of the report Conservation NGOs at risk: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and shrinking environmental civic spaces, by the University of Geneva, stressing the shrinking civic spaces, deteriorating conditions and attacks faced by conservation NGOs across the world. Based on a global survey and wider consultations with the NGO membership of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. (March 2022).

The report is available at:

<https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/202203/conservation-becoming-more-dangerous-increasing-violations-and-threats>



You are invited to this **official side event at COP 1 of the Escazú Agreement: "Reading the Escazú Agreement from a gender perspective: challenges and opportunities"**

Tuesday 19th April

10:30-12h (CHI) 16:30-18h (CET)

Pre-registration at: <https://bit.ly/3NWGaTk>

Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, English and Portuguese will be provided



Les invitamos a sumarse al **evento paralelo oficial de la COP 1 del Acuerdo de Escazú "Participación pública como elemento de éxito para mejorar el acceso a la información de los recursos naturales"**.

19 abril de 2022
16:00 hrs

- Other relevant events, organized by IUCN Members, within the context of the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement, held in Santiago, Chile (April 2022) are:

-Reading the Escazu agreement from a Gender Perspective: Challenges and Opportunities (virtual)–19/04/2022,

organized by **FARN (IUCN Member in Argentina)** and ECO Maxei, co-convene by Defensoras, Pachamama Alliance and Cuencas Sagradas Amazónicas with the support of the National Committee of The Netherlands

-Participación pública como elemento de éxito para mejorar el acceso a la información de los recursos naturales – (virtual) 19/04/2022, organized by **REFORESTAMOS MÉXICO (IUCN Member in Mexico)**.



II. Implementation of Clause (b)

As to the implementation of **clause b**, the main update refers to the submission of one fundraising proposal presented to SIDA “**Advancing towards effective conservation and territorial management with a rights approach: strengthening indigenous regional cooperation in Latin America**”. (Approx. USD 12m).

Through this proposal, IUCN will work together with members, strategic partners and the CEESP in ORMACC and Sur countries as main intervention areas of this initiative (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras and Guatemala) to move forward the mandates of several IUCN’s resolutions, including 051, to promote access to information, inclusive and effective public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America as well as to strengthen both prevention and attention to threats to indigenous lands and territories and to the integrity of environmental defenders.

Main action plan to be consider for the implementation of the WCC-2020-Res-051 at short and medium term (2022- 2026), may include the following activities:

- Facilitate the training of spokespersons/negotiators with key message, proposals and guidelines for negotiations/communication (with an emphasis on women and youth).
- Organize, with the support of experts, instances and high authorities of the IUCN, 2 sub-regional dialogues (1 for Central America and 1 for Amazonia) and a regional dialogue (LA) on the subject of human rights and environmental governance - including protection of Peoples and environmental defenders - to strengthen the exchange of information, the capacity of judicial systems (judges, courts, tribunals, judicial officials, judicial education institutions) and representatives of Indigenous Peoples - with emphasis on women's networks - and define agreements and actions in matters of prevention and resolution of cases and disputes, within the framework of regional and international agreements, including the Escazu Agreement.
- Organize and develop campaigns from IUCN’s and together with members and commissions to disseminate the results, agreements and experiences of the subregional, regional and international forums.
- Organize and develop in partnership with international bodies and organizations (Judicial Institute of the Environment, the University of Geneva / GEDT) and IUCN Commissions two international forums on human rights and environment to promote the Escazu Agreement and others of relevance, as well as actions in matters of governance and conservation with the direct participation of representatives/spokespersons of leaders, environmental defenders and organizations.