

ESCAZU AGREEMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE - JAMAICA

C-CAM implemented a national advocacy campaign to support the ratification of the Escazú Agreement by the Jamaican Government, co-funded by the European Union (ENV/2016/380-530) under the project **“Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)”**, that CANARI is implementing in partnership with C-CAM and others.

In collaboration with the World Resources Institute, Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM) will support a project to build consensus across climate change and environmental institutions on legal and practical pathways to support the early implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Jamaica. The project also aims to create new linkages between climate change and transparency, participation and justice communities in Jamaica on the connection between the Escazú Agreement as a human rights instrument and the Paris Agreement and the ACE Program of Work, including by building awareness about the Escazú Agreement and its utility in the fight for climate justice.

Activities

To advance the goals listed above, Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation will conduct the following activities:

Planning

Activity 1. Participation in the virtual course Effective Advocacy for Caribbean CSOs (June to July 2020) held by CANARI

Activity 2. Submission of an Advocacy Strategy and Action Plan for national advocacy initiatives to support the ratification of the Escazú Agreement using simple templates provided by CANARI

Research

Activity 1. Identify and work with a legal partner to participate in completion of a methodology to review relevant national laws on the environment, and access to information, participation, and justice to build a clear understanding of the country’s current legal framework to ratify and implement the Escazu Agreement and any gaps. The Legal partner will work with Danielle Andrade a consultant to complete and launch the assessment. Answer indicator questions listed in the methodology and write a short compelling formatted report, no more than 8-10 pages on the reforms needed. The legal and policy assessment should list the relevant environmental and regulatory laws and policies assessed.

Activity 2. Initiate and attend at least one meeting with the ministry responsible for the environment – NEPA – and the Focal Point for Climate Change to discuss the assessment’s

methodology and obtain approval for them to review the draft findings and participate in its completion. Seek their support to collaborate on the outputs of the project, specifically:

- Review of the legal assessment methodology and legal report
- Willingness to participate jointly in a virtual consultation workshop with civil society on the results of the legal review of the Escazu Agreement and development of a Plan of Action towards its ratification/implementation
- Review of the ACE framework.
- Share the draft report with relevant Government Ministries and Agencies

Activity 3. Compile a list of climate change policy and planning meetings and international opportunities for civil society engagement that provide an opportunity for Jamaican stakeholders to attend and influence climate decision-making and policy including the review of Jamaica's Nationally Determined Contributions and publish opportunities for civil society engagement in new ways and forums.

- Create one shareable, visual infographic summarizing the upcoming engagement opportunities

Activity 4. Interview at least the technical climate change focal point and /environmental focal point for Escazu in Jamaica to obtain an understanding from them how the Escazú Agreement can be used to strengthen implementation of NDCs under the Paris agreement and the form of implementation of the ACE program of work in Jamaica and how citizens can influence this program of work . Incorporate the result of the interview into the final report. Interviews can cover the following topics:

- Past processes to share climate relevant information with stakeholders including the terms of Jamaica NDC, Climate finance obtained, Climate adaptation strategies and climate policies
- Past processes to increase participation by Jamaican public of Climate Policies and NDC and climate meetings in region and internationally, building on Jamaica's previous communications to the UNFCCC
- Past processes to increase engagement of Jamaican public in issues relevant to the international negotiations and accreditation of Jamaican civil society
- Procedures and policies to outreach to the most vulnerable on climate policies and project implementation
- Any past experiences to reach out to the business sector, youth, women, vulnerable communities, media on climate relevant programs

Activity 5. Conduct a survey/interviews with civil society organisations and individuals who have been engaged in consultations on Jamaica's NDC and determine their level of engagement, their view of the outcomes of the participation and how they believed they influenced the outcomes of the policy and any strategies and whether they have an opinion of different models of participation to engage in the review of Jamaica's update of its NDC.

- Write a short 2-4 page report of the results of the interviews with and civil society.

Advocacy and Outreach

Activity 1. Hold a virtual workshop/public forum with at least 15-20 stakeholders from government (inviting focal point for climate, environment, attorney general's department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and civil society to discuss the current status the Escazú Agreement ratification process and to present findings from the legal assessment.

- At the workshop, create an Action Plan to address the legislative gaps in the process towards advancing ratification and implementation of the Escazú Agreement

Activity 2. Produce a small set of communications products supporting the implementation of the Action Plan developed at the government and civil society convening. This includes

- At least one press release
- At least one newsletter
- Adding new content and photos to C-CAM's website

Activity 3. Sharing of regional advocacy products developed by CANARI as part of the regional campaign

Footnote:

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of C-CAM and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

