

UNDERSTANDING THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT



What is the Escazú Agreement?



In March 2018, after years of negotiation, the Escazú Agreement was adopted. It is the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

This first ever environmental human rights treaty for Latin America and the Caribbean is aimed at promoting the enhanced governance of natural resources in the region.



Has Jamaica signed or ratified the Escazú Agreement?



In September 2019, Jamaica joined 23 other countries to sign the treaty.

The Jamaican Government has not yet ratified the Escazú Agreement



Why is the Escazú Agreement important to Jamaican citizens?



The treaty works to ensure that all Jamaicans can:

- Enjoy the right to a healthy environment
- Access information on the state of the environment and the decisions and plans that may affect it.
- Effectively participate in the environmental decision-making process
- Voice their opinions, and take legal action to seek redress to protect the environment, or if citizens are excluded from the decision-making process or refused environmental information

WHAT DOES ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEAN?

- 1 Its clean water, fresh air, and healthy food for all people
- 2 Protection from health and environmental hazards for all people
- 3 It is the involvement of everyone in decisions that affect the environment regardless of race, economic background or gender
- 4 Did you know **Jamaica** was among the first 6 countries to sign the first ever environmental human rights treaty in Latin America and the Caribbean negotiated in 2018 in Escazú, Costa Rica
- 5 The Escazú Agreement ensures access to information, participation and environmental justice for better governance of natural resources

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS FOR ALL JAMAICANS

At the CCAM Foundation, we understand the importance of the Escazú Agreement and the need to ensure that this agreement is ratified by the Jamaican Government, as it has been by other countries in the region.

This regional treaty guarantees environmental rights, provides protections for environmental human rights defenders and ensures citizens can play a part in decision-making on matters related to the environment.

