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## SIDE EVENT ESCAZU COP

# Building Capacity for access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

**April 20, 2022**  
**5PM -6:15 EDT**

**Organized by WRI , UNEP , Open Government Partnership and The Access Initiative on the margins of the first Escazú Agreement COP with the co-operation of the United State Environmental Protection Agency.**

**REGISTRATION LINK :** <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1608791266>

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Improving implementation of access to information, public participation, and access to justice help ensure that informed decisions are made and that all sectors of society have a say in decisions that affect their health and environment, which can enhance effectiveness of efforts to tackle pollution and other forms of environmental degradation, preservation of natural resources, and climate resilience, while building trust with the public and decreasing environmental conflict.

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (“Escazú Agreement”), adopted in 2018 and in force since 22 April 2021, includes provisions to address these needs, to engage the most vulnerable populations and communities, and to protect environmental defenders.

The Escazú Agreement recognizes in Article 10 the need to strengthen national capacities, including training of authorities and civil servants on access to environmental information; strengthening environmental law and institutions; having adequate equipment and resources; and targeting specific measures for persons or groups in vulnerable situations, including strengthening capabilities to collect, retain and evaluate environmental information.

A critical challenge today is how countries build strong institutions with the capacity to meet the obligations of the Escazú agreement. This event provides an opportunity to share lessons learned and identify available tools for capacity building on access to information, public participation,



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and access to justice, which can foster implementation of the Agreement now that it has come into force.

## LANGUAGE

The event will be in English/Spanish translation.

## THE EVENT WILL BE ON ZOOM

## AGENDA

**Welcoming remarks on behalf of the organizers and Moderator :** Justice Antonio Benjamin, National High Court of Brazil

**Panel discussion : What environmental cooperation programs, and tools are there available for addressing the implementation of capacity building requirements for the Escazu Agreement in the region?**

- **Pollutant Release and Transfer Programs:** Marcos Serrano Ulloa, Jefe Departamento Información Ambiental, División de Información y Economía Ambiental, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Chile
- **Public Participation Guide** , Melissa Dimas Director of EPA San Diego Border office
- **Judicial Capacity Building Program** , Andrea Brusco, Environmental Governance Regional Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Open Government Partnership IRM Escazu Guidance** , Denisse Miranda. Open Government Partnership, Chief, IRM
- **The Access Initiative, Escazu Agreement, Legal and Policy Assessment Tool**, Danielle Andrade- Goffe, The Access Initiative , Jamaica, Representative of the Public.

## Questions and Discussion