

THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT



Danielle Andrade-Goffe

Elected Representative of the Public

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

8th December 2020

ACCESS RIGHTS



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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Draft (D), Enacted (E); Constitution only (C)

✓	Antigua & Barbuda	Freedom of Information Act 2004 (E)
✓	Bahamas	Freedom of Information Bill 2015 (E)
	Barbados	Freedom of Information Bill 2008 (D)
✓	Belize	Freedom of Information Act 1994 (E)
	Dominica	Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Dominica (C)
✓	Dominican Republic	General de Libre Acceso a la Información Pública 2004 (E)
	Grenada	Freedom of Information Bill 2007 (D)
✓	Guyana	Access to Information Act 2011 (E)
	Haiti	Article 40 of the Constitution of Haiti (C)
✓	Jamaica	Freedom of Information Act 2002 (E)
	St Kitts & Nevis	Freedom of Information Bill 2006 (D)
	St. Lucia	Freedom of Information Bill 2009 (D)
✓	St Vincent & Grenadines	Freedom of Information Act 2003 (E)
	Suriname	-
✓	Trinidad & Tobago	Freedom of Information Act 1999 (E)

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: HARBOUR VIEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN JAMAICA



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



- **5 countries** - Legislation provides discretion to require public participation in the EIA process
- **4 countries** - Legislation requires mandatory public participation during the EIA process
- **6 countries** - Draft legislation for public participation and/or rely on guidelines or practice

Public meeting to discuss EIA for hotel development St. Ann, Jamaica (2005)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: AMERINDIANS AND MINING IN GUYANA



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



Riverton Landfill on fire (2014) © Jamaica Environment Trust

- **12 countries** - Common law legal system
Right to challenge decisions of public authorities (judicial review)
- **2 countries** - Environmental courts (Trinidad & Tobago; Dominican Republic)
- **2 countries** – Constitutional right to a healthy environment (Guyana and Jamaica)

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: MAYA LAND RIGHTS IN BELIZE



THANK YOU!



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