

# The Escazú Agreement

Saint Lucia: The Road Towards Ratification!  
(Kate Wilson- December 8, 2020)



# 2018: Saint Lucia Joins talks!

- The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) which houses the National Focal Point for the Escazú Agreement takes the lead on all issues pertaining to the said Agreement
- Saint Lucia joined the 7<sup>th</sup>. Round of negotiations on the Escazú Agreement in **Buenos Aires, Argentina** and actively participated in all efforts inclusive of all online Webinars and meetings hosted by ECLAC towards the formulation of the Agreement.
- **Public Awareness Committee** formed within the DSD chaired by its Legal Office (with representation on that Committee by the Communications and Advocacy Officer of the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) Ms. Karetta Cooks-Charles and the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Project Coordinator Danielle Gordon) to spearhead the education and sensitization nationwide and to engage various stakeholders on the essence of the Agreement and the need for signature by Saint Lucia.

# Regional Efforts by Saint Lucia

- Saint Lucia attends negotiations in San Jose, Costa Rica which culminates in the endorsement and adoption of the Escazu Agreement on March 4, 2018.
- Press Release on February 28 to March 5, 2018 Meeting in Costa Rica published in all major newspapers on the island and on the OECS Commission website which feeds over 1000 counterparts in LAC so coverage was extensive. These can be accessed in the press room archives of the OECS Commission available online. Radio and television news items were also done on this event and can be accessed on the facebook page of the various media houses, the Government Information Service/ National Television Network website and on YouTube, as well as the various social media platforms of the Department of Sustainable Development.
- Presentation on the Agreement made at the official launch of the National Environment Information Systems (NEIS) to varied stakeholders held at the Royal Saint Lucian Hotel in August 2018. (available on Facebook); Three PSAs produced and played at prime time on DBS Television and GIS/NTN. Available on all media platforms and the OECS Commission pressroom archives (play psa).

# Pre-Signature Efforts

## PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN GATHERS MOMENTUM!

- The **Daily Buzz on Choice TV** with Oneka McKoy and Amin Flood (can be accessed at the Facebook Page of the Choice TV Saint Lucia Network).
- The First **Lets Talk** programme in collaboration with the Communications Unit of the Ministry of Education hosted by Chris Satney (access on You Tube)
- **News Briefs** with major television stations nationwide like DBS ( with Alex Bousquet), HTS, MBC (feature with Jade Brown)
- **Town Hall Meetings** in Vieux Fort, Soufriere, and
- **Schools (infant and primary)** in Patience, Micoud, Desrissentaux
- Saint Lucia signs the Agreement on September 27, 2018 in New York when Agreement is opened for Signature.



# Post Signature Efforts:

- Concept note developed and approved by DSD to conduct robust media campaign towards prompt ratification of the Agreement:

Activities included:

- Escazu Desk at the Public Exhibition held at Castries town hall to celebrate Business month. News items on that available online.
- The Agreement promoted during the National Independence Parade ( DSD collaborates with Fisheries Department to highlight the SDGs, Marine plastic pollution and the importance of access rights.
- First anniversary of the March 4 Escazu adoption celebrated on the March 4, 2019 with a comprehensive release published by and available on the OECS Commission Pressroom archives, and several media houses and social media platforms.
- Saint Lucia attends the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of LAC in Chile (April 22-26, 2019). Dr. Gale.T.C. Rigobert and Teshia Jn. Baptiste (NEIS).
- Presentation on the Escazu Agreement at the launch of the NAP and SSAPs (FAC)

# Post Signature Efforts (contd.)

2019 :

Presentation on the Escazú Agreement at Workshop organized by the OHCHR Barbados Office and the External Affairs Ministry in Collaboration with the DSD on the preparation of the Universal Periodic Review Report (UPR); Presentation focused on the Agreement as a Human Rights Instrument and its provisions for protection for environmental defenders and vulnerable persons and groups.

Webinar ( April 24-25, 2019) : From Treaty Conclusion to Tactical Solutions-CCJ Academy Strategy for Advancing the Escazu Agreement (Hon. Justice Winston Anderson Judge of the CCJ).

October 2019:

ECLAC/ SLNT and DSD collaborate to host Stakeholder Consultation at the FAC Castries,

Consultation for the Youth at the Fisheries Complex

Second and Third “LETSTALK” programs in collaboration with the Communications Unit of the Ministry of Education hosted by Alisha Alley ( available on you tube).

World Resources Institute (WRI) chooses Saint Lucia as one of three Caribbean Countries to receive legislative review assistance to assist in the implementation of the Agreement.

# Post Signature Efforts (Continued):

- Saint Lucia represented at the **First Meeting of Signatory Countries to the Agreement** held in Costa Rica from October 11-12, 2019.
- April 15 – August 4, 2020 **ECLAC virtual Webinars** on the Implementation and Compliance Mechanism; August 25 and 27, 2020 on Financial provisions and institutional arrangements to facilitate implementation of the Agreement.
- **Biodiversity and Escazú sessions** held in the schools in the city of Castries and the outskirts
- **Consultation with Students at Tertiary level (SALCC)** making the link between the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and the Agreement. The **Online Course on Escazú** highlighted to students as well as the Observatory on the Agreement as developed by ECLAC. Professor of Sustainable Development Course Dr. Marie Louise Felix resolves to incorporate these resources in her Syllabus of this very “hands on Course” she teaches.
- **Radio and TV Programme on MBC Television** entitled “**Zafe Nous en Sent Lucie**” hosted by Jahiem and Yardie on January 29, 2020 with **Kweyol translations** provided by Primus Hutchinson from the GIS/NTN.
- Summer camp used to teach Students about the importance of access rights and the provisions on access to **information, public participation and justice** contained in the Agreement



# Recent Efforts: focus on Ratification

- DSD, SLNT, ECLAC and WRI collaborate to host Seminar on the Escazu Agreement for the **NWU** (Saturday July 25, 2020)
- Seminar for the **Judiciary (Magistracy, Masters, Judges)** July 28, 2020
- Seminar for the **SLBar Association** (September 2020).
- Discussion with Miguel Fevrier on MBC Television program “**OFFSCRIPT**” focusing on the importance of ratification of the Agreement
- Participation of DSD in global forum on Escazu entitled “**RATIFICATION: Women in Defense of Human Rights and Nature**” ( September 23, 2020)
- Bar Association Newsletter “**The BRIEF**” publishes Article on Escazu and the importance of ratification. (Sept 2020)
- World Resources Institute launch **Advancing the Escazu Agreement and Climate Justice in the Caribbean Project** in Saint Lucia (November 11, 2020).
- Cabinet Memo prepared and submitted to Minister for transmission to Cabinet on September 11, 2020. Cabinet considers Memo and approves ratification (Cabinet Conclusion no.1447 of 2020).
- Ratification Instrument drafted and submitted to Prime Minister’s Office/ External affairs Ministry/ Saint Lucia’s Permanent Mission in New York for onward transmission to Treaty office, UN Headquarters, New York.
- All relevant Agencies informed.



# Other National Efforts:

- Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) has a programme of activities on the Agreement spearheaded by its Communications and Advocacy Officer Ms. Karetta-Cooks Charles.
- Special edition of “ Our Heritage” entitled Caribbean Women Advocating for Better Environmental Governance September 23-30, 2020. DSD Legal Unit featured on September 28, 2020. (available on facebook page of SLNT).
- Development of materials/exchange of materials such as Poster Boards, Banners, Bookmarks, brochures (ECLAC and SLNT) used in public awareness.
- OECS Commission signed MOU for 2-3 years collaboration with ECLAC to advance the Regional Agreement. Head Of Oceans Governance/Fisheries at the OECS Commission Mr. David Robin and CROP Project Coordinator Mrs. Suzanna Debeauville- Scott collaborated with DSD on Consultations with focus on access rights in an OECS context and Oceans and Marine Governance.
- The “Hot Seat” Hot FM TV produced by Mr. Teddy Francis focus on ratification and entry into force ( Implementation procedures and processes) Dec. 2020.

# Thank You for the Memories!



# Representatives of the Public!





# The Grenada Delegation flanked by El Salvador and Ecuador!



# Saint Lucia with Trinidad/Tobago and SVG!





# The “Escazú” Team!



# Guatemala, Honduras and Jamaica delegates!





# Dominica and Costa Rica Delegates!



# Uruguay Negotiates!





## Delegates from the Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay and Peru!



# Brazil, Colombia and Chile!

