

**ANNEX 1  
NOMINATION FORM  
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND  
COMPLIANCE OF THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT**

**ALL FORMS RECEIVED WILL BE PUBLISHED**

**PLEASE SEND TO [secretaria.escazu@cepal.org](mailto:secretaria.escazu@cepal.org) by 15 December 2022  
(11:59 pm Santiago, Chile time)**

**A. Personal details**

(1) Full name: Ruth Viola Spencer

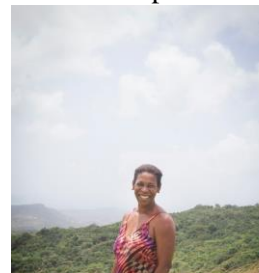
(2) Date of birth (day/month/year): 14/04/1955

(3) Nationality: indicate if you have more than one and whether you have initiated legal procedures to acquire new nationalities. If you have multiple nationalities of the countries listed in annex 1 of the Escazu Agreement, indicate which is to be considered the main nationality for the purposes of your nomination.  
Antigua and Barbuda

(4) Country of residence: Antigua

(5) Email address for communications with the Secretariat:

Include a photo if



**B. Languages: please indicate whether you are fluent in at least one of the working languages of the Escazu Agreement, English or Spanish, both oral and written. Knowledge of other languages of the region would be an asset.**

Level of Spanish:

Oral:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>
Written:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>

Level of English:

Oral:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: x <input type="checkbox"/>
Written:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: x <input type="checkbox"/>

Other language: please indicate here \_\_\_\_\_

Oral:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>
Written:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>

Other language: please indicate here \_\_\_\_\_

Oral:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>
Written:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>

Other language: please indicate here \_\_\_\_\_

Oral:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>
Written:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>

**C. Statement of motivation for applying** (600–1,000 words maximum)

My interest, commitment and passion is to engage and empower the global public in particular our environmental defenders and those persons and groups who are being left behind from the LAC region. I have had strong sustained and active engagement, participating and sharing my work from the local to the global level. I am actively involved and participate in global processes as a local community representative from the Caribbean. I am also involved with many human rights groups based in Geneva to include Alexandra Masako from the faith based group, The Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Action for Peace and Raj, Sushil on the UN expert group for afro descendants.

From the many opportunities provided to me from sharing and engaging on a wide variety of Convention topics to ensure that Gender considerations which are mainstreamed and integrating across the Conventions dealing with Waste, Chemicals, Climate Biodiversity, Plastics, Land Degradation and Mercury. I have been a voice for local community groups through my bold advocacy and are delivering results to uplift the lives of the local peoples and

It is key that human rights based approaches be accepted by Governments and mainstreamed in implementing the Escazu Agreement and our work and advocacy is also to hold governments accountable to the Treaty, hence the need for this Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance. As a result of my work, actions and engagements many local group are now accredited to the conventions and international processes. This process of building relationships had led to coalitions, cooperation and many partnerships that are building capacities. I have knowledge and have built relationships with many of the LAC government as well as NGO organizations. I have the personality to impact lives and this enables me to influence people, bringing about meaningful transformational changes that educate, bring awareness and sustainable actions. I have been recognized and received 3 Energy Awards- I was awarded the National Energy Globe Award for Antigua and Barbuda, under the patronage of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) and in cooperation with United Nations Environment Programmed (UNEP). -June 5, 2015 .One of 5 finalists selected by the Caribbean Community Secretariat for the 2018 Caribbean Energy Personality. Awarded on International Women’s Day (IWD) 2019, by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda-the Department of Gender Affairs, the Inaugural Award for Energy, Climate Change and the Environment

- D. Time availability:** please explain your time availability and commitment to perform the functions of the Committee, i.e. at least three months (90 days) per year (100 words maximum)
- E.** I am very committed to the process and the meaningful work, outputs and action that this committee is set up to do. I will ensure that at least 3 months per year or any further time needed is taken out of my schedule towards the work of the CSIC.

**E. Recognized competence in access rights or other matters covered by the Agreement:** Please explain how you meet this requirement (600 words maximum).

I have knowledge, understanding and experiences in many UN processes that impact the local and IPLC's in the LAC who are fighting for their access rights and pushing for human right based processes for their full and meaningful inclusion and participation. It is time for them to have a voice in the decision making processes. The knowledge I have gained enable my active involvement providing support to many groups- Women, IPLC, Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable and marginalized groups. Through my service on national and international committees, engagement in international processes, serving on Ad Hoc and other technical committees my skill sets, practical knowledge ,experiences and opportunities has built competencies in this area. My active involvement in the UN CBD processes in the IPLC caucus and the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity has provided knowledge and understanding in areas that are priority for IPLC's namely: Community-based monitoring, Indicators on traditional Knowledge and Customary Sustainable Use and community protocols within the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and now the 2050 Global Biodiversity Framework, Assessment of Collective Action of Indigenous peoples and local Communities in Biodiversity Conservation and Resource Mobilization, Expert meeting on the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge Relevant to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity. My recent selection as a Co-Chair for the Global network for local communities provides opportunities and enables me to work for the inclusion and participation of Caribbean stakeholders in national, regional and global processes.

**F. Legal experience and knowledge:** Please explain if you have legal experience and knowledge (300 words maximum).

**I have had some basic legal training that covers ABS Nagoya Protocol with IUCN facilitated through the Government. The legal training on “Building Measures to Implement the Nagoya Protocol, e-learning modules and workshop”** facilitated by The International Development Law organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in The Hague, the Netherlands. July 11-15, 2016 allowed me to hear the experiences and solutions of other groups. This training equipped me to host a follow up event for local community groups to support the IUCN ABS Nagoya Protocol project for the Caribbean.

My knowledge built on my participation in a Research Ethics and Training Workshop by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and UNESCO Regional Bioethics and Ethics of Science Program for Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Bioethics program has built understanding and competencies

Following my sharing of information to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on Accession to the International Treaty for the Protection of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), I am now supporting the Ministry of Agriculture on the setting up of a National Working Group following my participation at the LAC Training Workshop on Conservation, Sustainable use of PGRFA and Framers Rights in Uruguay

The value I bring and contribute toward national processes can be seen from 1. my membership on the Rio Convention Stakeholder Working Group by the UNCCD Focal Point for implementation of the GEF Funded project- Monitoring and Assessment of MEA Implementation and Environmental Trends in Antigua and Barbuda 2. My Appointment to the National Working Group for the Mercury-Minamoto Convention, being the only Caribbean NGO implementing a national Mercury Management project Entitled “Pathways to Mercury Phase out and Phase down” and 3. Appointed by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda to the Advisory Body of the Tourism Destination Stewardship Committee (DSC) of Antigua and Barbuda to serve the Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority shows and demonstrates the value seen in my contributions.

My knowledge of hot topics such as DSI processes has come from training from the Carnegie Foundation. I am hoping that through the reporting formats to be decided on from, we can tract processes, provide guidance on regulations. I will ensure that social safeguards and accountability systems are in place.



**G. Academic background**

Degree	Institution	Place	Year
MA-International Development Economics	Yale University	New Haven, Ct	1976
Certificate of Attendance and Participation on Sustainable Water Management and Smart Urbanization Course	Singapore cooperation Partnership	Online	2021
Certificate of Attendance and Participation in the GEF 5558 Training on the Detection,	Basel Caribbean Regional Center	Antigua	2020

<p>Identification, and Classification of POPS by Border Control Agencies</p> <p>Certificate of Attendance - RECETOX Summer School -- RECETOX Research Infrastructure, project SMURBS, The focus was on <b>Health</b> and Smart Cities.</p> <p>Geo Parks, Sustainable Development and Healthy lifestyles. University of UTAD, Vila real, Portugal, July 3-14, 2017</p> <p>Certificate of Achievement in Heritage courses</p>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in the Czech Republic and Centre RECETOX, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic</p> <p>University of UTAD, Vila real, Portugal,</p> <p>University of the West Indies, 2017</p>	<p>Online</p> <p>In person at the University of UTAD, Vila real, Portugal</p> <p>online</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2017</p> <p>2017</p>

<b>H. Relevante employment</b>		
Name of employer, functional title or position, and functions	Yesar of work	Place
Chair, Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust	7	Antigua and Barbuda
GEF/SGP National Coordinator	12	Antigua and Barbuda
	5 yrs	Antigua and Barbuda

Senior Lending Advisor-Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank		

**I. Independence from the executive, legislative and judicial powers of the State:** please indicate how you meet the requirement of being independent from the executive, legislative and judicial powers of the annex 1 countries of the Escazu Agreement (100 words maximum).

I have full independence from the executive, legislative and judicial powers of the state.

**J. Ethics and integrity**

(1) Do you have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that could limit, weaken, or bias the performance of your duties? If so, please explain.

No

(2) Are there any factors that may directly or indirectly influence, pressure, jeopardize or otherwise affect your ability to act independently in exercising your duties? If so, please explain. No

(3) Is there any reason, current or past, that could call into question your moral standing and credibility, or do you hold any views or opinions that might prejudice the way in which you discharge your mandate? If so, please explain. No-I am highly respected individual with morals and values that are people focused that focus on diversity, inclusion and respect of people.

**K. Publications:** please mention your participation, and explain what capacity, in any publications on access rights or other matters related to the Escazú Agreement (list the five most relevant).

I have been engaged in several consultancies to promote the Escazu Agreement through advocacy and engagement.

Through my proactive actions, I have been able to have ongoing engagements with government technicians to attend the learning and sharing process of the groups which provided key knowledge and information on community based solutions and this led to producing cases studies and other forms of documentation for reporting in the 6<sup>th</sup> National Report the Local Biodiversity (LBO)1,(LBO)2 and the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) 5, all publications for the UN CBD

I have also contributed to the reporting for the UNFCCC-the BUR Report and the National Communications report and the State of the Environment report.

I prepared a case study entitled “Improvement of Human and Environmental Health through Waste Management in Antigua and Barbuda” for the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review 5 for the publication on Fostering Transformative Change for Sustainability in the Context of Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS) published March 2021.

In October 2022, I was nominated by the Women and NGO Major Groups of UNEP to Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG), to guide the policy relevance of Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-7) over the next 2 ½ years

**L. Travel and assistance:**

(1) Do you have any limitations for travelling during the performance of your mandate? If so, please explain.

No

(2) Do you require any special assistance to perform the duties of this position? If so, please explain.

NO

**M. References:** please provide three references that can attest to your experience and competence in the matters of the Escazú Agreement (these individuals may be contacted during the selection process).

1. Full name: Aria R St Louis      Position: Head of the Environment



2. Full name: Johnno Scott Position: Former head UNCBD-Article8J & TK

3. Full Name: Kate Wilson. Position: Legal Officer/National Focal Point for the Escazu Agreement. National Focal Point for the Montevideo Programme for the Periodic Review and Development of Environmental Law, Department of Sustainable Development, Saint Lucia.

4Full name: Dr Tara Shine Position: Chair –The international Institute for Environmental Development (IIED)

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