

**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 by 15 December 2022
(11:59 pm Santiago, Chile time)**

A. Personal details

(1) Full name: Carole Denise Angela Stephens (Married name: Carole Excell)

(2) Date of birth (day/month/year): 11 January 1972



(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 Escazú Agreement, indicate which is to be considered the main nationality for the purposes of your nomination.

Jamaica and the United Kingdom - Jamaican is the main nationality for the purpose of this nomination.

(4) Country of residence:

United States of America and Jamaica

(5) Email address for communications with the Secretariat:

B. Languages: please indicate whether you are fluent in at least one of the working languages of the Escazú 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input type="checkbox"/>
Written:	Basic: <input checked="" 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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Written:	Basic: <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate: <input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced: <input type="checkbox"/>	First language: <input checked="" 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)

I am honoured to apply for the position of Member of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance of the Escazu Agreement. I would bring to the role over 20 years of experience as an advocate for environmental rights focusing on transparency, public participation, and access to justice, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. My professional life has been dedicated to working with Governments and civil society to improve the recognition and implementation of access rights (access to information, public participation, and access to justice) in Latin America and the Caribbean and across the globe.

My education, including a degree in Law (The University of the West Indies, Jamaica) and Master's in environmental law (University of Aberdeen, Scotland), has prepared me to understand, interpret and provide recommendations on the implementation of the provisions of the Escazu agreement. My experience working for the Government of Jamaica, the country's main environmental implementation agency (the National Environment and Planning Agency/ Natural Resources Conservation Authority) gives me a keen insight into what it takes to ensure implementation and compliance with the requirements of a regional legally binding environmental agreement. Working at the regional and global level as the Director of Environmental Democracy at the World Resources Institute a global think-and-do tank, to promote environmental democracy around the globe has given me an understanding of the power and importance of rights to information, participation, and justice in environmental decision-making and how to support capacity building and implementation. I would bring to the position my legal expertise, my personal commitment to a rights-based approach in environmental decision-making, and my belief in international cooperation and capacity building to ensure sustainable development in the region.

I have worked to support the negotiation, passage, and adoption of the Escazú Agreement with UN agencies, Governments, and civil society from the inception of the agreement that is the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean at the Rio +20 Conference. I have attended multiple negotiation meetings for the Escazú Agreement and engaged with Governments and civil society to support the adoption and entry into force of the agreement for over 12 years.

Throughout my career, I have had a special concern for and worked to support environmental human rights defenders. I am one of the founders of the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED) a coalition of civil society organizations, funders, UN agencies working with the aim of

improving the protection of environmental human rights defenders all over the globe. I have spent over 5 years working to support and bring attention to, and recognition of the work of, and importance of protection and prevention of harm to environmental human rights defenders. This work has focused on advocacy, supporting work to improve data collection by governments and civil society on attacks, threats, and killings of these defenders, to obtain emergency and non-emergency support and advocacy to stop criminalization and killings. This work has included a focus on Colombia and Mexico in the region.

I have developed specific expertise on transparency through my work with the Carter Center to support the development and implementation of the Jamaican Access to Information Act and in the Cayman Islands, leading the implementation of their Freedom of Information legislation on behalf of the Cabinet Office in of the Cayman Islands Government. In my work in both countries, I supported the development of regulations to implement the law and training for Access to Information officers, lawyers, and civil society to understand and use the law. I have continued developing my expertise in access to information and have been acting for over 2 years as an Appeal member of the World Bank Access to Information Appeal Board. In this position, I have had to hear multiple appeals against decisions of the World Bank to refuse access to information to the public. I work with fellow appeal board members to deliberate on the evidence presented, interpret the respective policies of the institution, and make final decisions on appeals to support the resolution of conflicts between requestors and the bank. I also had the privileged to be appointed for two years to the first UNEP Access to Information Appeals Board in June 2016. This is also an asset I bring to this position. I have worked extensively to support the development of legislation on access to information throughout the Caribbean region working in close cooperation between State institutions and civil society.

I have a deep appreciation for the importance of clear rules to support implementation and compliance and the development of fair processes to support governments in their implementation efforts. My job as a Mediation Manager working at the Dispute Resolution Foundation in Jamaica provided me with extensive experience in addressing disputes between parties and understanding rules and processes on how to get a fair and appropriate resolution of disputes. I believe that through capacity building and engagement of different sectors you can support robust implementation and compliance and ensure agreement between two parties. I am also convinced that special attention is needed to address the needs of vulnerable groups in the implementation of policy and legislation. I would be excited to share good practices, and support states and the public in implementation measures. I have a practitioner's background in law as I have worked to support the implementation of multiple laws addressing procedural rights and a particular academic interest in the Latin America and Caribbean region and the position of environmental human rights defenders.

If I am appointed to the Implementation and Compliance Committee, I am eager to advance rights to information, participation, and access to justice, to support environmental and human rights defenders, indigenous leaders, and civil society organizations; support governments in fulfilling their mandates; participate in any request for country engagements and help coordinate and provide support for implementation and compliance within the provisions of the agreement.

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).

I am currently working as a Director of Strategy at the Waverley Street Foundation, a foundation focused on community priorities and climate solutions, and have been approved to carry out this work, recognizing the importance of the Escazú Agreement. I am committed to performing the duties of this post to the best of my ability and would make time to undertake duties as required by the Agreement.

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

While Director of Environmental Democracy at the World Resources Institute I worked to support research on understanding emerging practices in the region for the protection of environmental human rights defenders, challenges, and vulnerabilities which led to one of the first publications in the region on this topic through research conducted by members of The Access Initiative.

I have supported the conduct of assessments on the status of recognition of environmental democracy in multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through my work on the Environmental Democracy Index at the World Resources Institute (<https://environmentaldemocracyindex.org/>) including a review of indicators and assessments for Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Haiti, and Belize.

I worked for 12 years supporting civil society to make progress on the recognition and implementation of environmental democracy engaging in leadership activities with The Access Initiative a network focusing on environmental democracy. I am currently completing a publication with the World Resources Institute and The Access Initiative members that focuses on the Escazú Agreement and understanding the challenges in implementing rights to information, participation, and justice for the most vulnerable groups in the region comparing current practice in countries to the standards in the Escazú Agreement.

Through my work I have a deep understanding of the position of different countries on access rights, the challenges and opportunities implementation provides, and insights into the needs of Government, the public, and environmental human rights defenders. In doing this work I have participated in and led multiple discussions, workshops, and expert exchanges, and led in providing technical assistance, supporting awareness-raising, and capacity building on access rights in multiple countries. I have had the privilege of training lawyers and judges on the implementation of access to information laws in the Caribbean as well as supporting awareness of judges on the importance of these procedural rights more generally.

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

I am an Attorney-at-Law who was called to the Bar in Jamaica in 1998 and worked for the Government of Jamaica for seven years as the Legal officer of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority/National Environment and Planning Agency representing the agency in all matters of appeals and before Courts as well in international negotiations for the Government of Jamaica. In my job with the Cayman Island Government, I supported the implementation of the Freedom of Information law on behalf of the Cabinet office. At the World Resources Institute, I have reviewed laws relating to access to information, public participation, and access to justice in over 50 countries around the world, including supporting efforts for law reform. I have provided advice and presented on procedural rights to multiple audiences including at meetings of the Parties.

G. Academic background

Degree	Institution	Place	Year
Executive Certificate in Facilitation	Georgetown University	USA	2021

Certificate in Mediation	Dispute Resolution Foundation	Jamaica	2007
Certificate of Legal Education (CLE) Norman Manley Law School	University of West Indies, Mona Campus	Jamaica	1997
Master's in environmental law	University of Aberdeen, Regent Walk	Scotland	1996
Bachelor of Laws (LLB) – Second Class Honours, University of West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados	University of the West Indies	Jamaica and Barbados	1995

H. Relevant employment

Name of employer, functional title or position, and functions	Years of work	Place
Strategy Director, Waverley Street Foundation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build and support solutions at the intersection of climate change and community priorities. ● Curate and support an ecosystem of community experts and advisors to develop philanthropic strategies, programs, and grants. ● Support grantee learning, connectivity, and collaboration opportunities. 	June 2022-Present	Maryland, USA/San Francisco, USA
Environmental Justice Advisor, Bezos Earth Fund (Secondment from WRI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the Bezos Earth Fund in its implementation of strategic funding for Justice 40 and in advice on global Environmental Justice issues. ● Provide advice on grant-making to environmental and climate justice organizations, ● Engage with and build relationships with environmental and climate justice leadership to initiate opportunities for collaboration, and strategic approaches to funding key initiatives 	May 2021-November 2021	Washington DC, USA
Director/ Acting Director/ Senior Associate Environmental Democracy Practice, World Resources Institute (WRI), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide a clear vision for how WRI's Environmental Democracy Practice (EDP) in the Equity Center can help move Governments toward a more transparent, participatory, accountable, and equitable decision-making, and refine and implement the EDP strategy. 	September 2019-June 2022	Washington, DC, USA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide WRI's work on environmental rights and climate engagement, building coalitions, and networks, and convening successful partnerships to implement an effective engagement strategy. ● Leverage WRI's global reach to key international and national civil society, movements, and networks setting the agenda for progress on the recognition and implementation of rights to information, participation, and justice, with a focus on those most vulnerable or marginalized. 		
<p>Cayman Islands Government, Cabinet Office, Coordinator of Freedom of Information Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Led a cross-ministerial team in the Cabinet Office to fully implement the Cayman Islands Freedom of Information Law (FOI). ● Co-developed a three-year strategic plan for all government ministries and agencies to adopt the FOI law. ● Facilitated and led FOI training courses for Information Managers in government and developed a manager's network. ● Coordinated the implementation of a successful national public awareness campaign on the FOI law with support from media organizations. 	January 2007 – September 2009	Cayman Islands
<p>Dispute Resolution Foundation, Kingston, Jamaica Mediation Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the conduct of Supreme Court Mediation ● Provide training support for mediators in Jamaica's magistrate and Supreme Court 	December 2006 –December 2007	Kingston, Jamaica
<p>The Carter Center, USA, Field Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the Implementation of the Access to Information project in Jamaica through engagement with civil society and media ● Provide guidance and support to Government of Jamaica information officers through sharing experiences from other jurisdictions 	February 2004 – December 2006	Kingston, Jamaica
<p>The National Environmental and Planning Agency/The Natural Resources Authority (NRCA), Manager of Legal Services Branch /Legal Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Represent the Authority in enforcement matters through the courts and tribunal ● Develop and design policy and legislation to administer the mandate of the authority ● Provide legal advice to the Board of the NRCA and officers of the organisation ● Process environmental permits and licenses, review EIA and design enforceable conditions including 	August.1996– February 2004	Kingston Jamaica

support for government public participation and EIA processes		
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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 Escazú Agreement (100 words maximum).

I currently am not associated with or working with the executive, legislative, or judicial powers of Jamaica or any other country in the region. I am working remotely with a philanthropic organization that gives grants to support community priorities and climate solutions.

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.

None

(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.

None

(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.

None

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).

Andrade, D. Excell, C. & Sanhueza, A. “The Escazú Agreement: Seeking rights to information, participation, and justice for the most vulnerable in Latin America and the Caribbean” (in external review to be published in 2023 by the World Resources Institute) – This publication reviews current case studies on access to information, public participation, and access to justice in 9 countries in the region to the standards of the Escazu agreement

Moses, E. & Excell, C. “A Community Action Toolkit: A Roadmap for using Environmental Rights to Fight Pollution” (2020). This publication outlines how environmental rights including information, participation and justice can be utilised by communities to support their fight against pollution of their communities.

Excell, C. & Moses, E. “Thirsting for Justice: Transparency and Poor People’s Struggle for Clean Water in Indonesia, Mongolia, and Thailand” (2017) This publication outlines case studies in Asia can provide lessons on understanding the importance of transparency globally in the lives of vulnerable communities.

Lemieux, Victoria, Trapnell, Stephanie, Worker, Jesse & Excell, Carole. (2015). “Transparency and

Open Government: Reporting on the Disclosure of Information”. JeDEM - eJournal of eDemocracy and Open Government. 7. 75-93. 10.29379/jedem.v7i2.392. This publication speaks to the methods governments can use to report on and disclose public information both proactive and reactive.

Banisar, David, Parmar, Sejal, De Silva, Lalanath & Excell, Carole. (2012). “Moving from Principles to Rights: Rio 2012 and Access to Information, Public Participation, and Justice”. Sustainable Development Law Policy. XII. 10.2139/ssrn.2164685. This publication was the first to make the case for the need of the Escazu Agreement in the Rio+20 process and why a legally binding agreement was so essential to be adopted by Governments.

L. Travel and assistance:

(1) Do you have any limitations for traveling during the performance of your mandate? If so, please explain.
No limitations on traveling during the mandate.

(2) Do you require any special assistance to perform the duties of this position? If so, please explain.
No requirements for special assistance to perform the duties of the position.

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: Position: Contact details:
John Knox, Former Special Rapporteur for human rights and the environment,

2. Full name: Position: Contact details:
Danielle Andrade-Goffe, Former representative of the Public, Escazu Agreement (Jamaica)

3. Full name: Position: Contact details:
Richard Calland, Former member of the Access to Information Appeals Board, World Bank