



SITUATIONAL  
ANALYSIS  
OF  
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**  
«A POLICE POINT OF VIEW»

BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR,  
PANAMA AND PERU



**AMERIPOL**  
COMUNIDAD DE POLICÍAS DE AMÉRICA

Integration for public security  
and protection

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PANAMA AND PERU



**AMERIPOL** COMUNIDAD DE POLICÍAS DE AMÉRICA

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President of AMERIPOL

Ambassador - Head of the Delegation for Colombia and Ecuador  
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## PROLOGUE

**T**he contemporary challenges posed by crime in the Americas make it possible to understand and connect facts, making police institutions more sensitive and proactive when faced with the crises, beyond the fight against transnational crime, given the current security and law and order situation, as well as the redefinition of citizen roles.

In this sense, AMERIPOL is currently the sample of this significant integrationist spirit, which will make it possible to consolidate a solid police block to face transnational organised crime, proving that it is a single multilateral alliance in the region to generate the most advanced police forces as the starting point for a historical event that has given rise to changes in the thought process and conception of security in the Americas. In fact, if there is one task that police institutions are most passionate about fighting for, it's the utopian goal of ending crime as well as promoting effective actions, in accordance with International Law, to rid citizens from the scourge of crime.

However, the reconfiguration of the global order caused by the current dynamics in international relations involves the need to join efforts in the fight against the factors that destabilise security in states and their societies, so AMERIPOL, with regard to security and police cooperation issues that fall under its scope, is making progress to strengthen its alliances and interaction in forums for subregional, regional, and global cooperation.

In addition, as a driving force within its police cooperation model, AMERIPOL seeks to generate an international symbiosis to fight transnational crime in order to increase strategic and operational trust through the strengthening of regional capabilities and international cooperation in order to face the security challenges shared by police institutions in the Americas, making progress in the search for a comprehensive project and strategic alliances with organisations that contribute to meet the challenge of fighting transnational crime.

Thus, since 2010, seeking to establish strategic international relationships, the American Police Community - AMERIPOL - started a process of approach to the European Union - EU - in order to explain its purpose, goals, scope, strategies and structural organisation. In late 2010, the project for the creation of a European Union Instrument for Stability, with an aspect of international support to fight against drug trafficking into Europe, was certified.

Consequently, in 2011, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Brazil between the EU and AMERIPOL, in order to establish links between some of the main police institutions to increase their ability to share information regarding drug trafficking and all types of transnational organised crime. The manager of this MoU is the Foundation for International and Ibero-American Administration and Public Policies – FIIAPP. It strengthens AMERIPOL's international action through domains related to holistic programmes for specialised qualification, the establishment of the secure information exchange system and support to joint investigations.

Placing emphasis on the capacity to share drug trafficking information, AMERIPOL, through the European Union Project, is presenting the document, *Situational Analysis of Drug Trafficking: A Police Point of View*, which seeks to describe the police assessment of the phenomenon of drug trafficking in the region, providing elements to establish action lines and measures to fight drug trafficking and organised crime.

The police institutions in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru were involved in the drafting of this document, providing information that was discussed and analysed by experts from the Americas and Europe. This made it possible to identify similarities in drug trafficking in all these countries, perform a trend analysis and, as an extra chapter, provide an assessment of drug trafficking “towards Europe with special emphasis on Africa”.

It is important to highlight the contribution from police institutions through their anti-drug peers, which shows the sincerest interest which States have not only in increasing knowledge through exchange of experiences, but also their desire to share strategic information that contributes to decision making.

In this sense, it should be mentioned that the tonnes of cocaine which enter the European Union every year, flown or shipped in from Latin America across the Atlantic also cross a large area of West Africa which is linked to drug trafficking activities between the Americas and Europe. For these reasons, AMERIPOL is a great inter-State bet to consolidate a police intervention model that PREVENTS criminals from escaping their criminal and civil punishment. This idea involved acting and surmounting all types of barriers by means of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and AMERIPOL.

To summarise, this document describes the approach to the new world of knowledge as an empowerment system of the police doctrine for crime prevention and neutralisation. This will provide us with full knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon, whose input will set the stage to guidelines to find the key points to counteract the scourge that is drug trafficking.

# SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF AMERIPOL

## Major General Rodolfo Palomino López

As described by Elena Azaola in her work, *Crime, Punishment, and Violence in Mexico*, “Whereas the inevitable belongs to the kingdom of nature, society is based on a reasonable search for improvement”. Thus, what is reasonable and best for all human beings is a safer world in which respect for the laws, created by consensus within a framework of democracy, is constant. In creating a world where, even though we have increasingly different interests, hopes and expectations, we can achieve higher levels of peaceful coexistence, without giving up our rights and in particular the right to freedom. It being understood that the latter can only be exercised responsibly, being aware of our duties as citizens of our States, and in particular as global citizens.

However, this search for security in citizens’ everyday life has been a constant concern for Latin American police forces. For this reason, the local police have recently acknowledged the need to work in a more co-existing and coordinated way, as the facts which we must face and the threats to citizens’ right to security are becoming increasingly greater and more diffuse. But it is no secret that the challenges posed by crime sometimes expose the weaknesses and deficiencies that we have in the institutions: for which reason sounder police forces are required every day, with higher levels of credibility, trust and legitimacy among citizens.

Thus, the Colombian National Police launched, six years ago, a large process to promote union and collaboration among the local police forces, which is currently being consolidated as the AMERIPOL American Police Community. This is a space in which the 30 national police forces that are now a part of it and the 18 organisations that have provided support to the process as observers have proven that the principles of co-responsibility, cooperation, and coordination can go beyond Memorandums of Understanding. Given that integration to fight transnational crime is doubtlessly an art which can only be practised when ideas, values, and visions for the development of societies in the 21st century are shared, on that basis actions that contribute to the wellbeing of all are carried out.

Cooperation and integration of all those in which we have invested the authority of law officers in the Americas, is once again yielding its fruits through this publication, which initially describes how we make

progress every day. By means of this text, we are laying the foundation for cooperation relationships between the European Union and AMERIPOL, which will, without question, contribute to generating greater synergies between our States and will possibly in the future be a precedent for cooperation between police forces.

In this opportunity, we come together to fight a scourge which has struck all our countries – illegal drug trafficking, which is, without a question, one of the most heinous activities led by organised crime, which also nurtures or complements the development of other illegal businesses.

For this reason, even though approaching this issue might seem foolish to untrained eyes, given the current discourse on drug trafficking, in our opinion, it is a crucial contribution in the midst of the endless battles we have had to confront to dismantle, investigate and start to prevent drug trafficking. In addition, unlike so many analyses and investigations, this publication is the result of the work of the AMERIPOL Units, its Presidency, Executive Secretariat and the Brazilian and Spanish Police liaison officers, as well as the effort of the AMERIPOL-EU Project managed by FIIAPP (the Spanish Government's Foundation for International and Ibero-American Administration and Public Policies).

It includes the experience of units, which within the police forces have spent 40 years fighting this scourge. In addition, it provides a comparative approach to the way in which this phenomenon is appearing in its various stages in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru; an aspect that contributes to dislodge common misconceptions, something that is crucial to promoting solutions with a higher degree of innovation. In this respect, a comparative approach makes it possible to account for similarities and differences, but above all to find explanatory variables that account for the differences between forms of drug trafficking that take place, which at first sight appear to be similar.

Likewise, performing this first systematic comparison has allowed us, as suggested by Professor Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, to verify that “What seems to be an exceptional feature of a country can be an extended common attribute and what seems to be a universal problem may simply be an unusual feature of local history”. In this way, this first comparison, based on the experience and know-how of local police forces against the phenomenon of drug trafficking, must help to design more innovative and comprehensive strategies that can have a strong impact on the various stages of the lifecycle of this phenomenon, generating positive long-term externalities.

In addition, this study must enable institutions to design complementary initiatives for State action, generating higher inter-operability levels among the units that fight drug trafficking within each local policy force. In this way, it will contribute to dismantling the criminal networks that control the cocaine route towards Africa, and of course those that perform these illegal activities in our countries.

Finally, I would like to point out that the complex problem of drug trafficking should not be a priority for governments and, in particular, police forces alone, but rather it requires strong commitment from the scientific-academic community, which, from the specific domain of generation of knowledge, must approach this problem, which must be better understood, in order to contribute to the design of more complex solutions.

## SPEECH BY THE AMBASSADOR - HEAD OF THE DELEGATION FOR COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR

**Tanya María Wilhelmina Josepha Antonia Van Gool**

In the current, strongly globalised world, there are many instances of interrelated cross-border problems and threats which countries and regions must face: the proliferation and loss of control over weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, organised crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and the proliferation of light weapons (which is so significant in many Latin American countries), among others.

Illegal drug trafficking, one of the main activities of organised crime all over the world, is based on a lack of international cooperation, the internal inconsistencies in legislations, political obstacles and the lack of governance over the global financial markets. Cocaine trafficking from Latin America towards West Africa, through the Caribbean, in order to end up in Europe, for example, is made easier by the lack of regional and inter-region cooperation. Illegal drug trafficking is closely linked to other forms of organised crime.

Cocaine trafficking in these regions is associated with a high volume of illegal financial flows which play a crucial role in money concealment and laundering and the investment of proceeds from crime.

For this reason, given the global nature of this kind of threat, the European Union is facing the need to fight it by means of common solutions arising from alliances with other partners, other countries and other regions. In this way, regional cooperation on security issues in other areas of the world is promoted as part of their own foreign cooperation policies.

The EU, being aware of the need to face these problems, designed the "Cocaine Route Programme" under the Instrument of Stability to support the fight against organized crime along the cocaine route. The programme targets all regions crossed by the routes from Latin America to Europe, with special emphasis on West Africa, where the threat has arisen most recently, and whose capacity deficit is high. Its transregional aspects take the form of the creation of channels for cooperation between West Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The goal of the Plan is to reinforce the capabilities for in-

ternational cooperation between the authorities with enforcement, statutory audit or legal functions in the regions involved. The interventions are focused on building infrastructures for drug trafficking prosecution in certain airports and sea ports in West Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and in the establishment of transregional frameworks for judicial cooperation, training, investigation, joint operations, and exchange of information.

The programmes designed within this context focus on the development of capabilities in close cooperation with the recipient countries. Capability-based security is usually reinforced on the national, regional, and finally, the transregional level. Following a tailor-made approach for each situation, the key countries in a certain region are identified and the capabilities of their forces with enforcement tasks and local security units are strengthened by means of the creation or consolidation of specialised interdisciplinary units. Regional coordination tasks are then established which are used, whenever possible, in already existing structures, in order to promote regional and transregional cooperation. The exchange of information by means of regional information systems is also encouraged. All these activities lead to the development of standardised operating procedures to face threats and an increase of effectiveness in the entire region. This is the AMERIPOL approach, which is but the result of a long effort directed at strengthening cooperation and collaboration in the American Police Community (AMERIPOL), their State members and other crucial stakeholders.

AMERIPOL was created as a meeting point for action and logistics, in order to measure the response capacity and leadership in the fight against crime on a regional level, in order to strengthen and provide shared experience, which has historically been shaped by other organisations such as INTERPOL and EUROPOL on the global and European level, respectively. We are aware that AMERIPOL is taking its first steps, as it does not have a legal personality yet, but at the same time we hope and expect that it will soon achieve it, as organised crime knows no barriers in time.

The AMERIPOL-EU Project initially targeted the cocaine producing countries (Bolivia, Colombia and Peru), which already have EU-funded AMERIPOL Units<sup>1</sup>, as well as transit countries such as Ecuador, Brazil, and Panama. Other recipients of resources for this kind of effort are Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

In the same way as any police organisation in the world (INTERPOL, EUROPOL) carries out its own monitoring and designs its own strategic handbooks for certain crimes, the AMERIPOL-EU project must encourage the countries involved in this initiative, to verify and assess the importance of approaching the problem of organised crime, particularly through UNAS (AMERIPOL Units) and particularly in the case cocaine trafficking towards Europe and Africa, in coordination.

This situational analysis of drug trafficking is the result of close collaboration between the AMERIPOL Units, the Presidency, the Executive Secretariat, and the Brazilian and Spanish Police liaison officers, as well as the effort made by the AMERIPOL-EU Project managed by FIIAPP (the Spanish Government's Foundation for International and Ibero-American Administration and Public Policies) which high-

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1. This funding was provided by means of a foreign action mechanism known as the Instrument for Stability, which from its start (2007) has made it possible to prevent some crisis situations and intervene in others, while dealing with the in-depth causes of instability.

lights the strategic importance of all countries – be they producers or not – to fight and act in coordination within the framework of shared co-responsibility.

This work describes the experience provided by the Anti-Narcotics Departments in the six countries mentioned above, showing that transit countries are becoming increasingly important, as drug trafficking is regrettably reaching new destinations. In addition, the famous “cocaine route to Africa” is just one route among many, as reflected by the objective data for the cocaine seized on the way to that big continent. Likewise, risk minimisation in deliveries should be pointed out, as seizures of large amounts of cocaine headed for Europe are rather exceptional. The years of very frequent, large drug stashes in ships seized as they approached the gates of Europe are now in the past.

Finally, I would like to highlight the two joint investigations recently coordinated as part of the AMERIPOL-EU project. The first one was carried out in Ecuador by the AMERIPOL Executive Secretariat and Portugal in June 2013, in which Ecuadorian police officers and prosecutors travelled to Portugal to coordinate the final stage of the investigation, obtaining the evidence required for the trial. It is estimated that the organisation involved in the investigations had laundered more than 80 million dollars. The second one is the investigation carried out by Europe and Latin America in July 2013, in which, through cooperation between the Spanish National Police Force, the British SOCA, and French Customs, they coordinated in turn with the AMERIPOL-EU Project to intervene in countries like Argentina, Brazil and, in particular, Venezuela through ONA (the National Anti-Drug Department), to successfully dismantle one of the main international drug transport organisations sending drug towards Europe. As stated by the Anti-Drugs Chief in the Spanish Police Force in the press release, “cooperation with AMERIPOL was crucial in this case”, adding later on, “this was one of the most significant instances of international co-operation in history”.

To summarise, this analysis is meant to be a useful tool for Governments in order to view the evolution of drug trafficking in the 2011-2013 period. In particular, the objective nature of the data processed by the AMERIPOL analysts should be highlighted.



# INTRODUCTION

## Transnational Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking: Threats to Governability in Latin America

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The expansion of globalisation has expanded the potential of non-traditional threats such as international terrorism, the proliferation of light weapons and natural disasters. These threats include organised crime as a contemporary global phenomenon that transcends borders thanks to emerging technologies. Even though there is no single view of the scourge of organised crime and the prospect of a comprehensive definition is unlikely, the United Nations has a stipulative definition that highlights various factual elements, namely: more than three people, structured, with persistence over time, for profit, and with penalties of more than 4 years. This is the way the Palermo Convention found to overcome the impasse of having a single definition that would be accepted by all States<sup>2</sup>. As part of this increasingly transnational phenomenon which becomes highly sophisticated when accessing use of cutting-edge technologies, drug trafficking, as part of the multiple activities of organised crime networks, is the greatest security challenge currently faced by Latin American States, for which reasons it has entered into the security agendas of these States.<sup>3</sup>

In a context characterised by complex interconnections established by multiple non-State agents (gangs, mafias, illegal armed agents), drug trafficking constitutes a globalisation phenomenon that escapes the control of merely national policies, associated with such illegal forms of trafficking as non-conventional weapons trafficking, the smuggling of chemical precursors, money laundering and such

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2. Francisco Rojas Aravena, *El crimen organizado internacional: una grave amenaza a la democracia en América Latina y el Caribe*, FLACSO, San José, Costa Rica, 2006, p. 10.

3. Emilse Calderón, *El desafío del narcotráfico como amenaza no tradicional en América Latina. Algunos apuntes sobre Brasil*. E-paper, p. 3.

phenomena as violence, corruption, and impunity. Hence, this is one of the main current challenges to the governability and stability of certain regions as the result of the multiplying effects which it generates in the most diverse political, social, and environmental agendas all over the world.

## **Drug trafficking and security agendas**

The situation generated by transnational organised crime in general and drug trafficking in particular has led to a reconfiguration of many countries' security agenda. In the NATO summit held in Lisbon in November 2010, a Declaration drawing attention on the danger of transnational organised crime in contemporary societies was made known, recalling the validity of Resolution A/RES/55725 of the United Nations Convention against transnational organised crime formalised in Palermo in November 2000. In addition, current circumstances have reconfigured the Inter-American subsystem agenda both in the OAS and in relationships between the United States and the various Latin America and Caribbean subregions.

As regards drug trafficking, despite significant precedents such as the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, it can be said that only with the 1988 Vienna Convention was it possible for the international community to reach a consensus on the definition of a strategy to face this scourge, on the basis of its conception as a transnational crime. A policy based on the principle of shared responsibility, respecting States' sovereignty, is being currently configured under the leadership of the United Nations.

The call to fight drug trafficking is due to the fact that it has the potential to generate governability problems by eroding the State's power to control its population and its territory, while, given its scope it tends to cross geographic borders and alter international stability, which does not mean that there is a general agreement to face this threat using the same methodology. Indeed, the different interests of the various States and their way of assessing the phenomenon have prevented joint action, although it is generally agreed that it requires taking political, economic, social, and environmental aspects into account.

Nor can it be ignored that the security agendas in Latin American countries, in addition of being based on their geographical peculiarities, are also conditional on the type of relationship which they have with the United States and the degree of autonomy which their government are able to exercise in the definition of their security priorities.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, the United States has established a strategy that associates drug trafficking with global terrorism, which it regards as the main priority of its foreign policy and on which it has declared war. However, not all governments are willing to adopt methods that are subject to serious criticism due to their results, to the extent that the thesis that psychotropic legalisation would be a better solution to the drug trafficking problem, as it would make it possible to open a way to regulate an activity that is currently illegal and deal with it as a matter of public health, has begun to spread in the region. It should be borne in mind, in this respect, that crime is a legal concept, and that, by establishing what constitutes a crime, the law configures illegality spheres. In addition, by banning certain activities and transactions, the State gives up many

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4. Ibid. p. 12.

of its regulatory powers. Hence critics on the war on drugs, as conceived by US governments, believe that prohibition lies at the heart of drug trafficking, all the more so when, whereas growing illegal crops is a serious offence in Latin America, consumption of marijuana for recreational purposes is legal in the states of Washington and Colorado, and other US states such as Montana, Oregon, Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Michigan, Maine, and Vermont allow marijuana consumption for medical purposes, with some restrictions.

Leaving this aside, it is obvious that terrorism cannot be regarded as part of organised crime given that, unlike organised crime, it has political goals. Organised crime does not seek political power as such, although it does seek to have an impact on the State. This does not prevent terrorist groups from obtaining support from extensive illegal networks. In Colombia, for instance, both the insurgent militias of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) and the former Colombia United Self-Defence (AUC), declared to be terrorist organisations by the State and large parts of local and international public opinion, have held close links to drug trafficking, kidnapping, and large-scale extortion.

Treatment of this issue is complex, given that, even though there is currently a clear awareness in Latin America and the Caribbean of the fact that drug trafficking is a problem that involves each and every one of the countries in the region, so that it has a central position in their respective security agendas, the assessment made by each State differs profoundly from other States' as threats are not the same. What seems to be generalised, however, is the idea that militarisation is not the answer to social problems associated with the State's inability to meet social demands and provide security to its citizens. Likewise, given the extent of the drug trafficking threat, interinstitutional cooperation is crucial for success, as the strategies taken will not be effective if the matter is not acknowledged to be a shared problem.

In fact, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean are transit zones on the route between the main production areas (Andes countries) and consumption areas (the United States and Canada). The different positions held by the countries affected by the threat of drug trafficking and the various perceptions associated with its assessment prevent it from being countered with some degree of effectiveness by the Inter-American security scheme, so the conceptualisation of its transnational nature is not a completed task, and agreement on its treatment is not unanimous. Within the OAS framework, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission is in charge of inter-state cooperation, but its structure lacks the presence of the crucial agent for treatment of the problem of drug trafficking: the United States.

Understanding an approach to the problem of drug trafficking and the debates generated by the fight against it requires an overview of its history without losing sight of the fact that, from the point of view of legal positivism, a crime is regarded as an act that infringes on the legal system, so that a crime can be illegitimate and vice versa. In other words, drug trafficking is an illegal activity, but not everyone regards it as illegitimate.

The recent history of drug trafficking, currently regarded as a serious offence, that is to say, as a crime, goes back to the 1950s in the United States of America. Drug consumption was then associated with crime and the marginalisation of black and Latin American populations. Over the years, as drugs were adopted by protest groups in the sixties, use of psychotropics became general and widespread. The

hippy cultural phenomenon and protests against the Vietnam War were associated with consumption of illegal substances, which consumption, by having an impact on large consumer groups, becomes a public health and safety issue. In the US collective imagination, the culprits of this situation were foreign residents who smuggled in the drugs consumed by young people in the US, and drug trafficking became a geopolitical problem. The war on drugs was launched in 1970, under Richard Nixon's presidency. Drugs were regarded as a threat to the national security of the United States, and this assessment has been maintained since then: the countries that produce drugs experience the ravages of a war against drug trafficking, which is the product of United States consumption and prohibition.

## **Drug trafficking, society, and corruption**

The geographic variable has been a significant factor in the rise of the illegal drug industry located in remote and scarcely populated areas, where the State's vulnerability or absence turns them into areas suitable for the manufacturing and smuggling of illegal goods, as well as for the development of organised systemic corruption processes promoted by those who have significant financial resources generated by the trafficking of illegal goods. Nor should social features which give rise to illegal behaviours be forgotten, such as weak national identities and pragmatic policies based on purely formal democracies subject to corrupt practices due to the persistence of narrow social mobility channels that frustrate upward mobility expectations within an establishment that turns a blind eye to the origin of wealth and finally accepts illegal revenues and capitals.

Drug economics connects production, marketing, and finance in an intricate web that ignores national borders. As described by Emilse Calderón,

"It can be said, to begin with, drug trafficking constitutes an illegal productive-commercial circuit (production, distribution, marketing, and money laundering) for internationally forbidden goods, drugs, in which such activities as production of raw materials, semi-processed products, and finished products, as well as all the transport, storage, and wholesale and retail sale stages, take place. This process involves various social agents (peasants and labourers, chemical laboratory staff, chemists, transporters of various kinds, logistics experts, security staff, hired assassins, finance experts, mediators, and the leaders), with very different involvement, responsibility, earning, and decision making levels. This circuit is in itself a transnational capitalist company whose goal is to obtain maximum profits with minimum risk, and is constituted by organisations ranging from small bands to large groups such as cartels".<sup>5</sup>

To summarise, drug trafficking creates strategic alliances with various crime organisations with which it establishes complex networks. A significant contact point between transnational crime and drug trafficking is use of two complementary instruments: corruption and violence. As regards the laundering of money obtained in illegal actions, for the most part it is performed through the international financial circuit (investment in monetary instruments, work dispatches, electronic bank transfers...), direct investment, and smuggling. Once these proceeds are laundered, they are mixed with legal ones and distinguishing between them becomes very hard. Injection of illegal capital into Latin Ame-

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5. Ibid. p. 7.

rican economies has a positive impact by providing a certain boost but it also gives rise to distortion. The clandestine nature of the drug economy makes it tremendously difficult to analyse its effects on the societies involved in this activity, but there is no doubt that the volume of the capital flows associated with drug trafficking exerts inflationary pressures linked to what is known as the “Dutch Disease”, which gives rise to distortion in investment, employment, and consumption while governments spend significant portions of their expenditure fighting it, to the detriment of public investment in productive activities. Yet more important is the effect of drug trafficking on social structures, given that it has a perverse effect on the social fabric by generating behaviours that deviate from legal and generally accepted standards.

As described by Francisco E. Thoumi,

“The proclivity to produce illegal goods can be due to many factors, including: firstly, impunity, that is to say, the State's inability to enforce its laws [...] Secondly, weakened social controls [...] Thirdly, internalised weak controls in every individual... A society with a high percentage of individuals who are not concerned with the impact of their actions on others has higher proclivity to crime than one in which the opposite is the case.”<sup>6</sup>

However, even though Thoumi's statement is true, the fact that drug trafficking is generated by a precarious socio-political and economic context or by failing public policies, and that its economic origin lies in endogenous factors such as unemployment and social impoverishment where the poorest become even poorer and minorities become wealthy as long as drug trafficking continues to be one of the most profitable activities in global activities. Hence the fact that, given the certainty of poverty and the guarantee of real, rapid wealth offered by drug trafficking activities, together with the status associated with it, many people from all social classes are involved in these activities. In fact, the social prestige acquired by drug traffickers as subjects of recognition and power as opposed to those who are existentially helpless often turns them into role models in many social media – something which disturbs social order inasmuch as it penetrates social structures, interferes with decision making circuits, and imposes its own laws. Its impact is such that in some Latin American regions a “drug trafficking culture” as a paradigm for the accumulation of power and wealth has even been described.

As regards the drug trafficking chain, it can be said that its initial link lies in the peasants to whom growing coke or poppy crops have provided sufficient conditions to subsist. By advancing towards higher levels in the production chain, drug trafficking creates a pyramid structure, generating corporate networks which, hiding behind legal covers, provide a large capacity for adaptation in a fragmented, anonymous circuit.

In the field of illegal products, cocaine is the most profitable. Even though the coke growing countries in the late 20th century were Peru and Bolivia, Colombia, which initially played a transforming and refining role, gradually concentrated most crops from the 90s on. Ecuador, which in the 80s tried to become a coke growing country, finally entered the circuit, as did Venezuela, as a bridge country be-

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6. Francisco E. Thoumi, *La relación entre corrupción y narcotráfico: un análisis general y algunas referencias a Colombia*, e-document, , pp. 21 and 22.

fore becoming a transit country. The fight against drug trafficking in Colombia led to the spread of crops into neighbouring jungle areas. Venezuela joined the circuit as a producing country while remaining a bridge country, and Brazil joined the circuit as a marijuana and cocaine producer in laboratories hidden in the Amazon forest. In the early 21st century, no Latin American country is free from some degree of involvement in the drug trafficking chain, given the non-presence of the State in many regions where inequality and social exclusion are the rule.<sup>7</sup>

Paradoxically, the relative success of the fight against drug trafficking in Colombia, where the crop area decreased from 163,000 hectares in 2000 to 64,000 hectares in 2011, according to the Integrated System for Illegal Crop Monitoring (SIMCI) has displaced the problem to neighbouring countries, increasing internal consumption and promoting the search for new routes<sup>8</sup>. Apparently, Peru is once again the top coke growing country; Mexico and Central America have experienced a staggering increase of illegal activity in their territories, and Brazil is now the second cocaine consumer after the United States. In addition, as declared by William Brownfield, former US ambassador to Colombia and current Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the decrease in local production has led drug trafficking organisations to develop new markets and new routes to Europe and Asia through Africa, placing the Caribbean in a key position.<sup>9</sup>

To summarise, drug trafficking combines multiple procedures and has created a web of complex relationships between peasants in remote areas and financiers in large cities. The routes used to take drugs to their final destination involve three basic modalities: by sea, through fictitious exports that camouflage drugs in large vessels as well as by using speed boats and mini-submarines that use precarious but effective technology; by air, using "mules, couriers or swallowers" who conceal the cargo in their own bodies or by using speedy delivery services; and by land, transporting drugs in vehicles that avoid police controls.

In addition to its complex articulation networks, drug trafficking is characterised by use of force in its activities and use of corruption and bribery as the main instrument to erode the State's capabilities, paving the way for the impunity of its actions. Joint use of extortion and violence as the main instruments for action is also a great danger for Latin American and Caribbean societies. Indeed, if the high homicide rate is taken as an indicator to such an extent, the region is the most violent in the world. When rates are examined by category, the highest figures and percentages are found in the 18-29 age range.<sup>10</sup> Added to the fact that Latin American legislations impose lighter sentences on underage criminals than on adults, hit man activity has had a staggering growth in this population.

The main corrupting weapon used by drug trafficking are the huge earnings which it generates. Even though estimates on revenues from illegal drugs vary considerably depending on the methodology applied, the amount is very high by comparison to the expenditure required to corrupt bureaucrats

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7. Ibid. pp. 9 y 10.

8. EL TIEMPO, Sunday 30 September 2012, p.12.

9. EL TIEMPO, Sunday 20 October 2012, p.12

10. Francisco Rojas Aravena, op. cit., p., 26.

and the political class sometimes makes it possible to establish close links between influential public servants, opinion makers, politicians, legislators, judges with no scruples who protect criminal organisations and financial agents involved in money laundering.

The spread of activities linked to drug trafficking and organised crime has led to the proliferation of violence in countries that do not produce narcotics, such as Panama, but which are part of the crime chain, which has led their governments to believe that local violence and murders are linked to the fight against drug trafficking. The number of people associated with drug trafficking who run for elected positions, perverting politics, State institutions, and governability, is also a large concern. The result of these actions is the weakening of the rule of law and the perversion of democracy by removing the legitimacy of institutions, generating a loss of equality before the Law, and encouraging distrust of rulers among citizens. Of course, as pointed out by Francisco Thoumi, some groups are more prone to corruption than others, but "the more legitimate a regime is, the lower the propensity to corruption which that society will have".<sup>11</sup>

Nor can the impact of the values that make societies cohesive be forgotten, so that comparing the effects of a "corrupt" action in different societies will not yield the same result given the different social controls in each society. In Ecuador and Bolivia, for instance, where corruption is also a scourge, drug trafficking has not given rise to organised systemic corruption due to the existence of many more restrictions on individual behaviour than in Colombia, where traditional values have been less preserved than in neighbouring countries.<sup>12</sup>

To summarise, the transnational nature of drug trafficking indicates that the road ahead is that of inter-State multilateral cooperation. However, even though this may be regarded as a significant need and crucial for success, some obstacles must still be removed. Firstly, it is the persistence of national solutions over consensus efforts, on the basis of different political and strategic orientations, which detracts from the possibility of creating a genuine intelligence community to fight transnational threats. Secondly, the different criteria regarding use of military force to fight drug trafficking. Finally, there are the large discrepancies regarding political institutionalisation levels and quality. Actually, despite significant progress in the fight against drug trafficking, States have not yet developed effective transnational wide-ranging forms of cooperation and action to perform this activity, which is becoming increasingly complex. As expressed by the Secretary General of Flacso, "Even though international cooperation is making progress, there is still great mistrust and a low level of communication, as well as weak processes for the construction of common principles and concepts that structure actions arising from shared decisions".<sup>13</sup>

Certainly, the fragmentation of the fight against drug trafficking is due to the peculiarities of each country and the resources available, but it is also conditional upon the type of relationship between each country and the United States - something which, together with the previous obstacles, makes it hard to define a clear, unambiguous policy. However, the reference to drug trafficking made in the

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11. Francisco E. Thoumi, *op. cit.*, p. 19.

12. *Ibid.*, p. 26.

13. Francisco Rojas Aravena, *op. cit.*, p. 14.

declaration issued by the South American Defence Council during the first meeting of defence ministers should be taken into account, as it constitutes a recognition of the need to face the challenge together, and it might lay the foundation for the creation of a regional security agenda from a multilateral cooperation angle. Should this agenda be implemented, this would be a significant step in the fight against drug trafficking, whose activities escape control by national policies, given that most of the demand comes from outside the producing countries and a large of the raw materials for narcotics production also comes from abroad.

For many analysts, the corrupting power of drug trafficking is so great that the number of politicians and public servants associated with it increases at the same rate as the public expenditure to fight it. This raises the issue of whether it might not be better to legalise drug consumption, preventing drug traffickers from continuing to benefit from the current prohibition, as this does not halt the market but merely makes it illegal. In this way, the heinous alliance between drug trafficking and political power would come to an end, an illegal groups handling billions of dollars would disappear.

Defining a comprehensive policy against drug trafficking which transcends security issues as something that is the strict competence of repressive organisations and the scattered efforts of different institutions is the main challenge to face the threat of this illegal activity. The scope of drug trafficking also goes beyond public health and repression issues; actually, it is a threat to the economic and social order all over the world. Prevention policies, the recovery of public spaces, the fight against impunity, and changes in attitudes towards illegal activity should be added to the search for great security, which cannot be obtained by merely placing more military and police staff on the streets and in the fields.



# DRUG TRAFFICKING SITUATION

# Bolivia



# Drug Trafficking Situation In Bolivia

## Introduction

It is important to note that Coca cultivation in Bolivia is considered constitutional heritage, due to its broad legal use for cultural, social and medical purpose, already recognized in the Vienna Convention. Moreover, Bolivia is by far the smallest producer of coca leaf, thus of cocaine hydrochloride. The estimates indicate a potential production of less than 150 metric tons.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia, being located in the Andes area, is just another point for cocaine cultivation, as other countries nearby, and therefore used by drug trafficking groups, as in the other two cocaine-producing countries.

Bolivia has great geo-strategic importance in the region since the proximity to countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru facilitate new drug trafficking routes primarily to Europe and also to the USA.

In its last report on Bolivia the United Nations show the success of the drug policy of the Plurinational Government as policy of coresponsibility, social control, respect for human rights and biodiversity. The government also supports the integral development processes.

Bolivia has currently reduced from 27.000 hectares in 2011 to 25.300 hectares in 2012 in the three areas where coca leaves plantations are monitored: Yungas of La Paz, Cochabamba Tropics and provinces in the North of La Paz.

Currently, Bolivia is carrying out coca-cocaine comparative studies in order to determine in the future the quantity of coca leaves in a natural state for traditional use and the coca leaves diverted to drug trafficking.

Brazil shares 3,423 km of marsh and jungle borders, has increasingly become the stage for drug trafficking coming from Bolivia and Peru; moreover, most of the cocaine base sent to Chile and Argentina is produced in small laboratories or small buildings in the Bolivian highlands, which are very different from the large laboratories found in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

It is important to single out the great results achieved by the FELCN (Special Force for combating drug trafficking) of the Bolivian Police, since in comparing 2011 and 2012, 34 and 36 tons of base paste were seized respectively.

The hijacking of coca leaves that do not enter the legal circuit increased by 23% in 2012, and as a result 739.884 kilos were seized, while in 2011 the seizure amounted to 603.319 kilos.

## Illegal crops

The new Political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia establishes that coca leaf is a cultural heritage, a renewable natural resource of biodiversity and a factor for social cohesiveness, which in its natural state is not a drug. Its revaluation, production, marketing, and industrialisation shall be conducted as established by Law.

Bolivian legislation defines and establishes three coke production areas in the country:

- a) Traditional production area. (Where coca has been grown historically, socially, and agricultural-environmentally – the same coca that has been used in traditional usage).
- b) Transitional excess production area. (Coke crops are the result of a process of spontaneous or directed colonisation which has sustained the expansion of surplus crops in the growth of demand for illegal use).
- c) Illegal production area. (The area of illegal coke production is constituted by those areas where coke crops are forbidden. It comprises the entire territory of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, particularly national parks and protected areas. Plantations in this area will be subject to mandatory eradication).

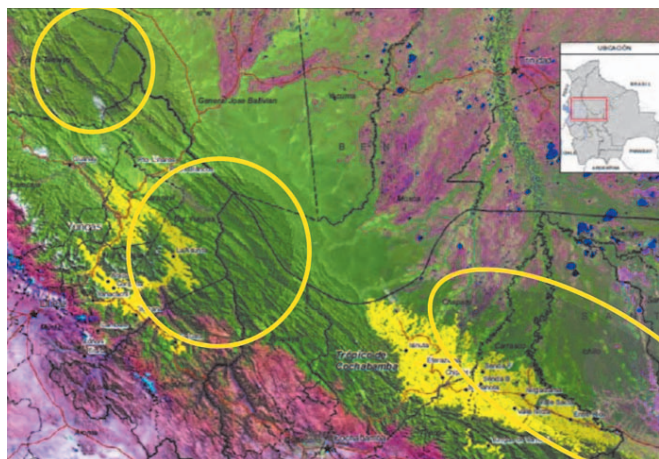
The 2012 monitoring reveals that there are 27,000 hectares of coke crops in Bolivia, with a 12% decrease, reflecting a reduction in the coke crop surface area with respect to the 2011 results, which reported 31,000 hectares.

Until 2010, the coke crops area was stable, but in 2011 there was a significant decrease due to the eradication efforts made by the Bolivian Government as part of the Strategy to Fight Drug Trafficking and for the Reduction of Excess Coke Crops 2011-2015. Coke crops in Yungas de La Paz reached 18,200 hectares, displaying an 11% decrease; in the provinces in North La Paz they dropped to 370 hectares, a 7% decrease, and in the Cochabamba tropic it decreased to 8,600 hectares, a 15% decrease.

At total of 2,211 hectares of coke crops were found in the National Parks (Isiboro - Sécuré and Carrasco) in the Cochabamba Tropic. In the Isiboro Sécuré Park, coke crops decreased by 30% and in the Carrasco Park they increased by 2%. In other Protected Areas, such as Apolobamba, Madidi, Cota-pata, and Amboró, coke crops amount to 151 hectares.

Coke crops in Bolivia yield approximately 48,100 metric tonnes of sun-dried coca leaf.

### Main coke growing regions Cochabamba, Yungas and North La Paz Tropical Areas



## Crop stages and techniques



Preparation of land, "chaqueo" or land burning, in the dry season, tree burning.



Terrace building to prevent erosion, extend crop life, and increase humidity.



Seed selection, shoot preparation and transplant.



Transplant of coca shoots into prepared terraces.



The first coca crop is obtained approximately 6-12 months after the transplant.



The dried leaves are spread out on a special stone floor called "cachi" which significantly speeds up the drying time.



In other areas of crop expansion, coca leaves are spread out on agricultural nets or plastic sheets laid out on the floor.



Coca crop associated with yucca.



After being dried, coca leaves are packed in jute bags for transport and marketing.

## Coke crops in protected areas

There are 22 protected areas in Bolivia, with a total surface area of 170,700 mk<sup>2</sup>, which represents approximately 16% of the national territory. Several protected area categories have been defined. The greatest proportion of coke crops in Protected Areas is located in the National Parks of the Cochabamba Tropical Area (Isiboro Sécure and Carrasco). Coke growing in these areas is forbidden and eradication is mandatory.

Name of the Protected Area	Category
Isiboro Sécure	National Park and Indigenous Territory
Carrasco	National Park
Amboró	National Park and Integrated Management of Natural Area
Apolobamba	National Integrated Management of Natural Area
Cotapata	National Part and Integrated Management of Natural Area
Madidi	National Part and Integrated Management of Natural Area

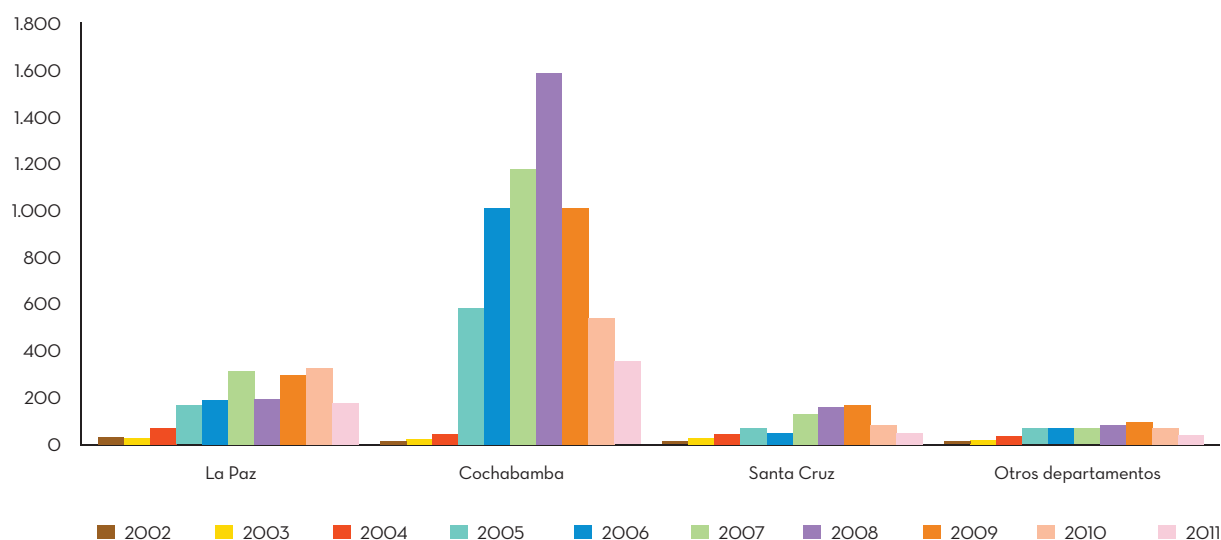
Source: FELCN

## Seizures

### Coca leaf seizures 2002-2011

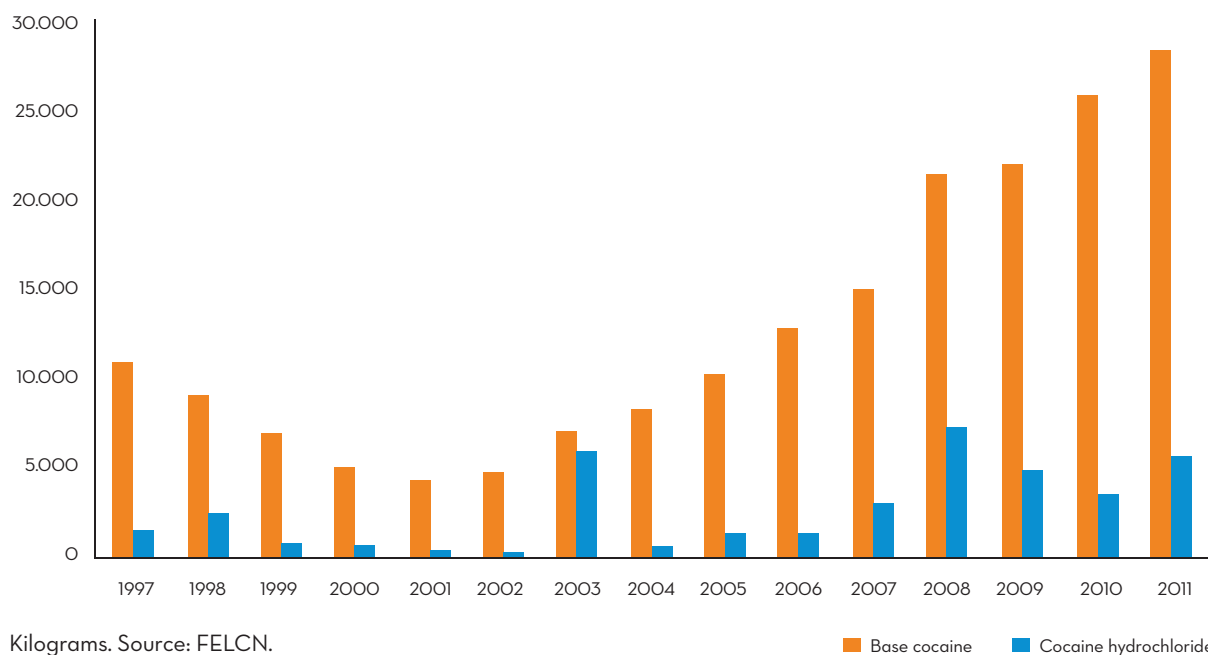
Department	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
La Paz	31.291	22.375	66.396	172.331	197.854	315.463	196.829	290.394	322.013	172.134
Cochabamba	214	11.105	37.748	591.803	1.030.834	1.203.767	1.628.706	1.031.999	540.816	347.538
Santa Cruz	7.343	20.828	30.441	68.508	52.018	130.703	155.464	161.244	78.027	48.896
Tarija	1.407	4.451	10.183	16.499	19.604	11.843	21.030	20.081	37.457	7.077
Oruro	1.205	4.682	6.120	24.814	21.913	24.393	34.075	45.674	7.076	21.746
Potosí	357	1.321	1.942	1.509	4.010	4.999	7.149	5.764	2.655	1.034
Chuquisaca	0	1.450	1.448	3.229	11.780	7.013	8.444	3.924	20.875	1.053
Beni	728	600	904	7.525	4.778	6.768	13.076	14.959	6.058	3.843
Pando	0	0	0	50	271	686	50	0	58	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.545</b>	<b>66.812</b>	<b>155.182</b>	<b>886.268</b>	<b>1.343.062</b>	<b>1.705.635</b>	<b>2.064.823</b>	<b>1.574.039</b>	<b>1.015.035</b>	<b>603.321</b>

Source: FELCN



Metric tonnes. Source: FELCN

Cocaine base seizures by the FELCN in 2011 amounted to 28.35 metric tonnes, a higher amount than in previous years. Cocaine hydrochloride seizures in 2011 amounted to 5.6 metric tonnes, also higher than in 2012, when they amounted to 3.4 metric tonnes.

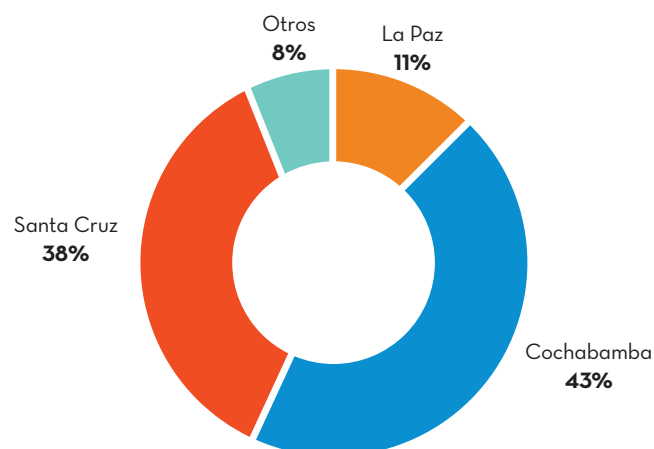


Kilograms. Source: FELCN.

Product	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Base cocaine	10.848	8.906	6.905	5.044	4.280	4.741	6.934	8.189	10.152	12.779	14.911	21.641	21.970	25.714	28.352
Cocaine hydrochloride	1.477	2.440	802	555	334	362	5.969	531	1.300	1.309	2.923	7.246	4.922	3.390	5.614

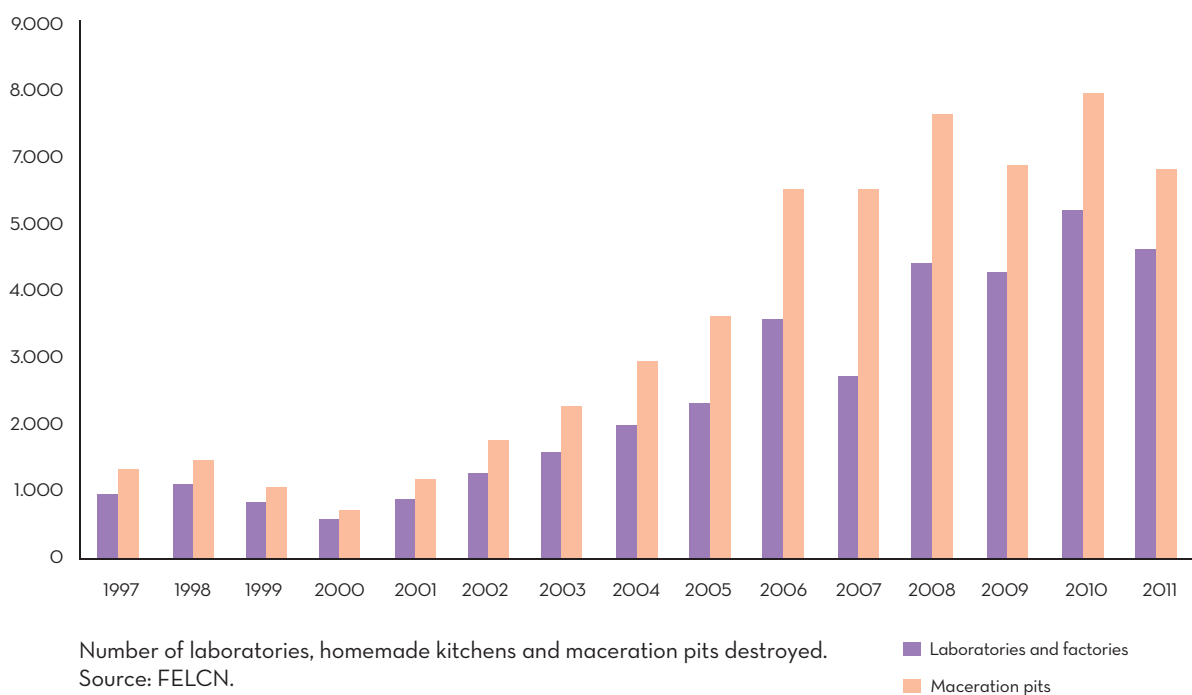
Source: FELCN.

## Cocaine hydrochloride seizures by department in the Bolivia central axis in 2011%



## Destruction of factories, laboratories, and maceration pits 1997-2011

In 2011, 5,252 laboratories or homemade kitchens for cocaine processing and 6,652 maceration pits were destroyed, which amounts to a lower figure than in 2010.





## Chemical Substances

Bolivia is not regarded as a producer of chemical substances. Control organisations have identified the largest cocaine production areas in the Cochabamba Chapare area, spreading into Ichilo province in the Santa Cruz department, Los Yungas de La Paz, as well as Chiquitania and the Bolivia National Parks.

Chemical substance trafficking is the result of drug traffickers' need to illegally introduce and concentrate large amounts of chemical substances in areas near cocaine production and refining centres. These substances are introduced into the country both legally and illegally.

These chemical substances enter the country through the extensive border with Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Peru, smuggled in small and medium amounts hidden in goods and other products, via main and secondary roads to reach production areas.

Import companies introduce the substances, which in some cases are controlled for internal use (industry, ironmongers, beauty products, among others), and then sell them in small amounts so as not to arouse suspicions in authorities that they are being funnelled into the illegal market (i.e. they are transported to storage points and then taken to cocaine production centres), since without these chemical substances, the coca leaf is a healthy, medicinal product which has been traditionally consumed.

Authorities investigate by means of groups that monitor these chemical substances, in coordination with operating units, performing inspections to prevent funnelling of these substances to companies or for commercial use: border checkpoints, roadside checkpoints, importer controls.

In terms of cocaine production, there are two scenarios: cocaine factories, and cocaine crystallisation laboratories.

The process has now changed, and extraction is performed by means of solvents, for the most part using hydrocarbons. This reduces the extraction process time to obtain the cocaine base. It should also

be borne in mind that the infrastructure for this process is easy, as assembly is not difficult and is done by hand, using in some cases natural resources (leafy trees, branches, mangroves).

## Cocaine hydrochloride production laboratories

At first, laboratories could be easily installed in small areas, as they lacked a complex infrastructure. The material used was dumped into rivers or currents. However, the product yield from this process was meagre and production costs were high. The installation and assembly of the infrastructure of these mega-laboratories currently take place in large areas, with large investments. Infrastructures are distributed by areas and the manufacturing area is divided into different areas, such as: recycling areas, chemical substance storage area, power plant, refining laboratory, dormitories, kitchen and bathroom areas. All of these areas are surveyed from strategic security points. In these cocaine production laboratories, cocaine base is processed to obtain cocaine hydrochloride: the impure cocaine base is purified to obtain cocaine hydrochloride.

### Case «Megalaboratorio». March 2012



Solvent recovery processes and even processes for the production of controlled chemical substances from non-controlled chemical substances have been found to take place in these cocaine hydrochloride production laboratories by means of chemical synthesis. Large amounts of these substances, mainly solvents, have been found.

## Trafficking

Due to its geographical location at the heart of South America, Bolivia borders on five countries through its seven thousand linear kilometres of borders. This makes it ideal as a drug transit country.

Santa Cruz de la Sierra is the epicentre of illegal drug trafficking in Bolivia. This department is used by several transnational drug trafficking organisations for the production, storage, trafficking, and in most cases, the building of laboratories for the refining of controlled substances.

Criminal drug trafficking organisations constantly seek to find new ways to conceal drugs in order to circumvent police controls. The most common means of transport are detailed below.

### Air Trafficking

Drug trafficking organisations use international commercial flights to achieve their illegal goals, sending drug deliveries in packages carried by people to their final destination, mainly North America, Africa and Europe.

To achieve their illegal goals, drug trafficking organisations use:

- International commercial flights to deliver drug packages by means of drug couriers or people who are prepped to carry the drug inside their bodies (swallowers).
- Aircrafts with DGAC (General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics) procedural flight plans which are later flown to other locations to commit illegal activities, using clandestine landing strips in order to transport drugs to the border or outside Bolivia.
- Clandestine landing strips near crystallisation laboratories from which light aircrafts headed for the border take off. Particularly significant is the high influx of light aircrafts from Peru towards Bolivia which carry cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base.

Three main air hubs are used by criminal organisations.

1. Amazon Hub
2. South Beni Hub
3. Highlands Hub

These hubs have been established to activate drug transport by air into Bolivia from Peru. Aircrafts land in clandestine landing strips in the east of the country, where they are stored and then delivered to Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina.

## Land Trafficking

- On lorries, international public service buses, light vehicles, and motorcycles with prefabricated concealed compartments (“macacos”) where the drug is hidden.
- Through secondary roads and paths, by backpackers who carry the drug to intermediate points incrementally until the border is reached (on foot or by bicycle).

## Waterway Trafficking

Drug trafficking organisations use most water tributaries to reach intermediate points to collect the drugs. Barges, flatboats and rafts are used to cross borders. Medium-sized barges and rafts are used to transport drugs via rivers and lakes (Lake Tititaca).

## Drug Trafficking Routes

The main drug trafficking routes for transport of cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride in Bolivia are mostly main roads, tracks, and paths. The main ones are:

- To Brazil through Beni department: Guayaramerín, Rurrenabaque, Santa Ana, Yucumo, Puerto Ustariz and Mategua.
- To Brazil through Santa Cruz department: Concepción, Tacuaral, San Ignacio de Velasco, San Matías, Cascabel, Roboré, Puerto Suárez, Puerto Guijarro and Puerto Busch.
- To Argentina through Tarija department: Puerto Sucre, la Victoria, Yacuiba and Bermejo.
- To Argentina through Potosí department: Villazón, Mojinete and Laguna Verde.
- To Chile through Potosí department: Laguna Colorada, Ollague, Salar de Uyuni, Llica and Bella Vista. Through Oruro department: Coipasa, Pisiga, Sabaya, la Rivera, Todos Santos and Tambo Quemado and through La Paz department: Charaña, Santiago de Machaca, San Andrés de Machaca, Jesús de Machaca and Desaguadero to Peru.
- To Peru and Brazil through Pando department: Bolpebra, Cobija, Porvenir, Puerto Rico and Santa Rosa del Abuna.
- From Peru to Bolivia: Desaguadero, Puerto Pérez, San Pedro de Tiquina, Copacabana, Mocomoco, Puerto Acosta and Pelechuco.

## Drug trafficking routes from Bolivia towards Europe and Africa

The main international routes for transport of cocaine to Europe and Africa are:

Bolivia – Brazil – Europe

Bolivia – Brazil – Africa

Bolivia - Argentina - Europe

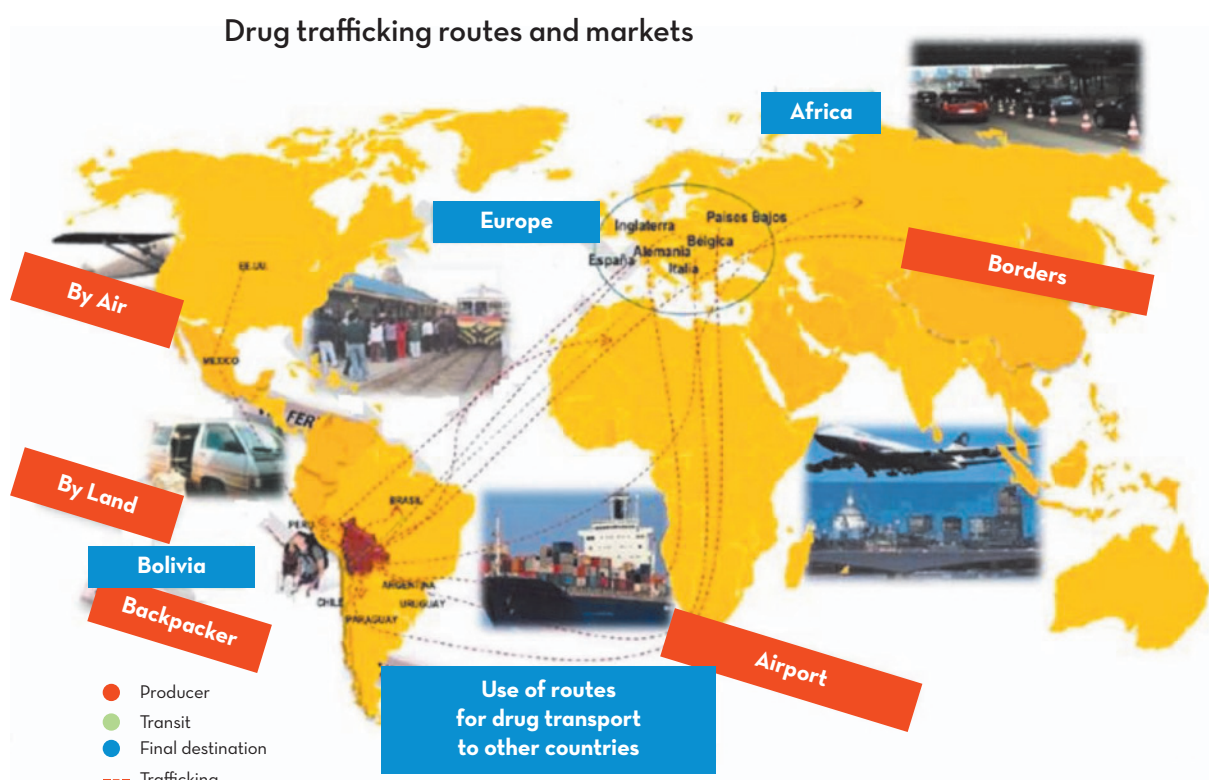
Bolivia – Argentina – Africa

Bolivia - Paraguay - Africa

Bolivia - Peru - Europe

Bolivia – Chile - Africa

Bolivia - Chile - Europe



## Concealment methods that facilitate drug trafficking



**Physical:** stuck to the body (mules), wigs, shoes, goods, suitcases, batteries, mobile phones, sculptures.



**Ingested:** in orally ingested capsules.



**Inserted:** rectally and vaginally by means of prepared condoms.



**Chemical:** in export products, mixed with potato mash, ketchup sweets, mo-cochinchi, paint, etc.



**Technical:** in capsules, batteries, export furniture, caterpillars, export rocks, cylinders, double-bottom vehicles, mobile phones, paintings, sculptures, and double-bottom suitcases.



**Solutions:** solutions impregnating clothing, paintings, double-bottom suitcases.





## DRUG TRAFFICKING SITUATION

# Brazil



# The Drug Trafficking Situation in Brazil

## Introduction

Brazil is a continental-sized country. It borders on the following countries: Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, French Guyana, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru, with a land border of 16,400 km and a coastline of 7,000 km., including ports and airports. Its logistics is fully adapted to the international trade needs as regards global transport of cargo and people. Brazil is the largest financial area in Latin America, with a population of more than 190 million people.

Another relevant aspect to assess the importance of Brazil as a financial region is that it facilitates circulation of drug trafficking organisations and networks, leveraging the benefits of its geography and its strategic location in the continent.

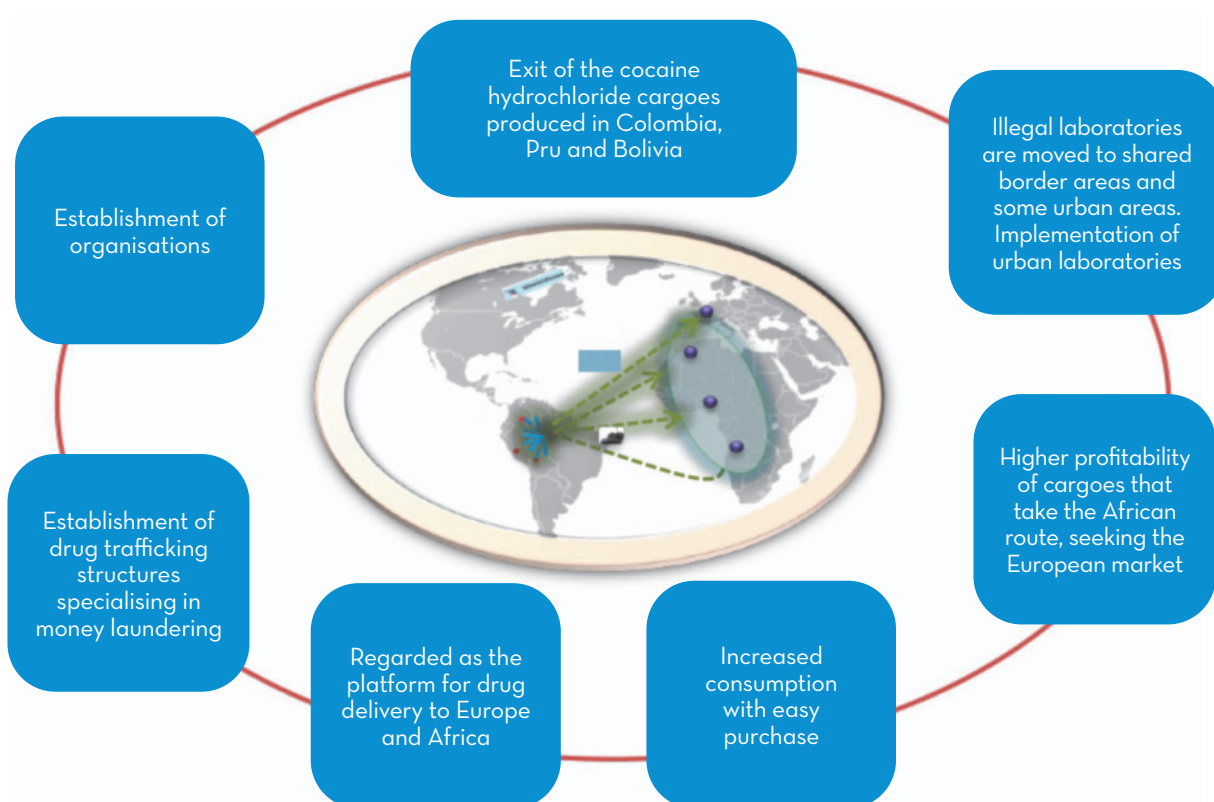
The arrest in São Paulo of Colombian drug trafficker Juan Carlos Ramírez Abadía aka “Chupeta” was a warning sign. Brazil may have become the main location for the multimillion dollar business of drug trafficking. That is to say, it serves as a sanctuary for drug traffickers on the run, an intermediate point for drug distribution towards Europe, a provider of chemicals for production, a base for money laundering and a market for consumption.

It is also used for transit of illegal drugs produced in the Andes region, especially Peru and Bolivia. However, it is important to point out that, due to its historical connections to African Portuguese-speaking countries, Brazil has become a platform for drug trafficking towards West Africa.

Brazil has become established as a territory of strategic importance for transnational drug trafficking structures, which introduce cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride.

Border regions have become key areas for crime organisations, as they enable them to perform their own drug trafficking activities, from chemical substance smuggling and funnelling, illegal crops, drug production, marketing, and distribution, making use of the extensive jungle areas and the different means of transport (by waterways and by air).

## Implementation of new routes to Europe through West Africa: Brazil as a platform



## Drug trafficking in Northern Brazil

### Acre, Rondônia, Amazonas, Roraima, Pará and Amapá states

**1. Acre and Rondônia:** large amounts of drugs that enter Brazil through these two States come from Peru and Brazil by land and are distributed to the rest of the country through the BR-364 road. There are also cases of small aircrafts that “drop” drugs in flight into Brazilian territory, mainly in southern Rondônia.

**2. Amazonas:** the State of Amazonas is the main corridor for the narcotics produced in Colombia and Peru. Manaus, the state capital, is also used for transport of drugs that come from Venezuela through another Brazilian state, Roraima. The narcotics that cross Manaus usually go to the capital of the state of Pará, Belém, and then to other cities in Northeast and Southeast Brazil as well as abroad.

One of the most frequently used means to circulate the narcotics coming from Colombia into the state of Amazonas is automobiles, pick-up trucks and lorries crossing Venezuela that are placed on riverboats known as “rafts” or “ferries” in Manaus and transported to the Brazilian city of Belém in the state of Pará. From Belém they usually go on to the northeast region, and can also be distributed to mid-west and southeast Brazil.

The main route in the state of Amazonas continues to be the city of Tabatinga, on the border with Colombia and Peru, which is the main entry point for the narcotics produced in this area of the border. This region is the object of constant clashes between Colombian and Peruvian drug traffickers that wish to control the area.

The destination of the entire narcotics traffic in Tabatinga, with very rare exceptions, is the Manaus pass, where most passenger ships exit Tabatinga to sail down the Solimões River. Small boats, rafts, and ferries are also used.

Rio Negro in Amazonas is an alternative route frequently used by criminal organisations operating together with Colombian drug traffickers, as this region is less controlled by police authorities in the state. Large amounts of drugs have also been seized on small and medium-size crafts sailing down this river in this route.

A very worrying route, which is a less likely but viable option for Peruvian and Brazilian drug traffickers who want to avoid the triple border region (Brazil, Peru and Colombia) is the Juruá River, through the city of Cruzeiro de Sul, in the Brazilian state of Acre, which is navigable up to the city of Manaus. In this passage, drug traffickers use medium and small-size crafts, rafts and ferries to carry large quantities of goods for drug transport, which makes Police legal work difficult.

**3. Roraima:** The state of Roraima in Brazil is a route for narcotics from Colombia which enters Venezuela and crosses into another Brazilian town, Boa Vista, and from then generally on to Macaus, from which it departs to the main cities in Brazil as well as to Europe and Africa.

This region is used by aircraft pilots working for international drug trafficking crime organisations. Pilots generally used to work in illegal mining and have extensive knowledge of landing routes in the area.

Roraima is also widely used by large crime organisations, which use the state as a base of support in loading drugs from Colombia that are then delivered mainly to Surinam and the Guyanas, and from these countries on to the USA, Europe and the Caribbean.

Small drug traffickers are also negotiating in Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima, part of the drugs entering through the Venezuela border or the town of Bonfim, in Roraima, on the border with Guyana.

**4. Pará:** Due to its geographical characteristics, the state of Pará has become one of the main routes for national and international drug trafficking through its great river networks, in particular the Amazon River, for the transport of great drug cargos to the city of Belém, the capital of the state of Pará, which serves as a storage area for the flow of narcotics by road to other federation units, in particular the Northeast, Centre-West, and Southeast of Brazil.

The city of Belém has been the base for criminal organisations that eventually are used on the Brazil coastline for drug transport to Europe and Africa on small ships with the structure for transatlantic travel.



In the State of Pará, crime organisations use small aircrafts to transport large amounts of drugs, using clandestine landing strips built on local property which frequently belong to members of the crime organisations, or else properties which have landing strips for use by their owners, but which are not subject to any kind of inspection.

**5. Amapá:** Historically, drug trafficking in Northern Brazil has not included the state of Amapá as a route for transport of large amounts of drugs; nor does it shelter crime organisations with the potential to promote this means for transport to other Brazilian states or other countries.

There is frequent route for use by light trafficking, which uses small crafts or “leisure boats” sailing down the Amazon and the Jari Rivers, transporting passengers between Manaus and Belém and the neigh-

bouring territories. These small drugs traffickers have the town of Naranjal de Jari/Amapá as a point for support when the narcotics are on their way to Macapá, the main consumer market in the state.

Another route with high potential would be used to go to French Guyana, through the town of Oiapoque, in the north of the State of Pará.

### **Narcotics trafficking to Surinam and Venezuela**

**Surinam:** the main drug trafficking route headed to Surinam comes from Colombia, through Venezuela and the Brazilian state of Roraima. This route is made both by land and air. From Surinam, narcotics are embedded in ships and/or aeroplanes with the following main destinations: the United States, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean.

**Venezuela:** used as a route for drugs from Colombia that then enters Brazilian territory through the State of Roraima, to the city of Manaus, and then is distributed to the rest of Brazil. Another route used by drug traffickers goes through Venezuela and then heads into Surinam, French Guyana and English Guyana.

### **Brazilians recruited by foreign drug traffickers for transport of narcotics in Brazil**

Brazilian citizens are usually recruited by foreign drug traffickers to transport drugs through Brazil, given the difficulties and complex nature of Brazilian roads and waterway network. Use of Brazilian citizens is required in order for this "crossing" to be successful, given their knowledge and experience of these difficulties.

Brazilians connect the drug-producing countries, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to the location from which drugs are sent to other countries: Brazilian ports and its borders with Surinam and Guyana. This connection can be:

**By land:** From Colombia, into the state of Roraima through the Venezuelan border:

- a) Exiting through Guyana, mainly the town of Bonfim in Roraima, Brazil
- b) Following on to the city of Manaus in Amazonas, Brazil.

**By air:** from Bolivia and Peru, through the states of Acre and Rondônia, reaching distributors in the State of Pará and large consumer and distribution centres, mainly in Southeast Brazil.

**By river:** from Colombia through the hydrographic network of the Amazon River in Brazil.

## Drug Trafficking

Due to geographic conditions on the border, the land, water and air routes in the Amazonas department are the main ones for drug trafficking towards Brazil and Peru.

Even though there are multiple routes, Brazil is regarded as the Amazon connection by criminal groups, and it is crucial for transit of their cocaine headed for Africa and Europe.

## Precursor chemical trafficking

Brazil, regarded as a provider of chemical precursors, has one of the largest industries in South America for production of these kinds of substances. Drug trafficking organisations make use of this to funnel a large part of these substances towards the production of cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride. Another significant aspect to point out that facilitates trafficking across borders is the presence of illegal armed groups in charge of covering the substance purchase and distribution stages. The jungle conditions in these regions also facilitate and provide a favourable environment to freely perform these activities.

## The problem of favelas

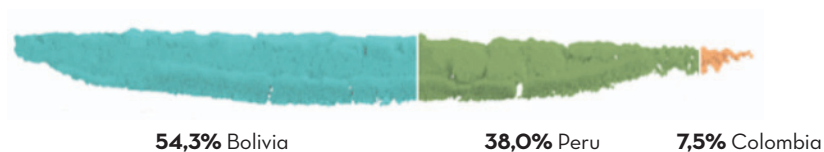
Simultaneously, the favelas in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo continue to be the location where the main crime organisations that control a large part of drugs trafficking in Brazil operate. Their main structures are:

**In São Paulo:** Primer Comando de Capital (PCC), has a presence in Mato Grosso, Paraná, Bahía and Minas Gerais.

**In Rio de Janeiro:** Comando Vermelho, with presence in the favelas in Manqueira, Providencia, Complejo de Alemão and Pavao-Pavaozinho. Fernandinho is currently in prison. Tercer Comando Puro (Taquaral and Dendê). Amigos de Amigos (Rocinha, São Carlos and Complejo de la Maré).

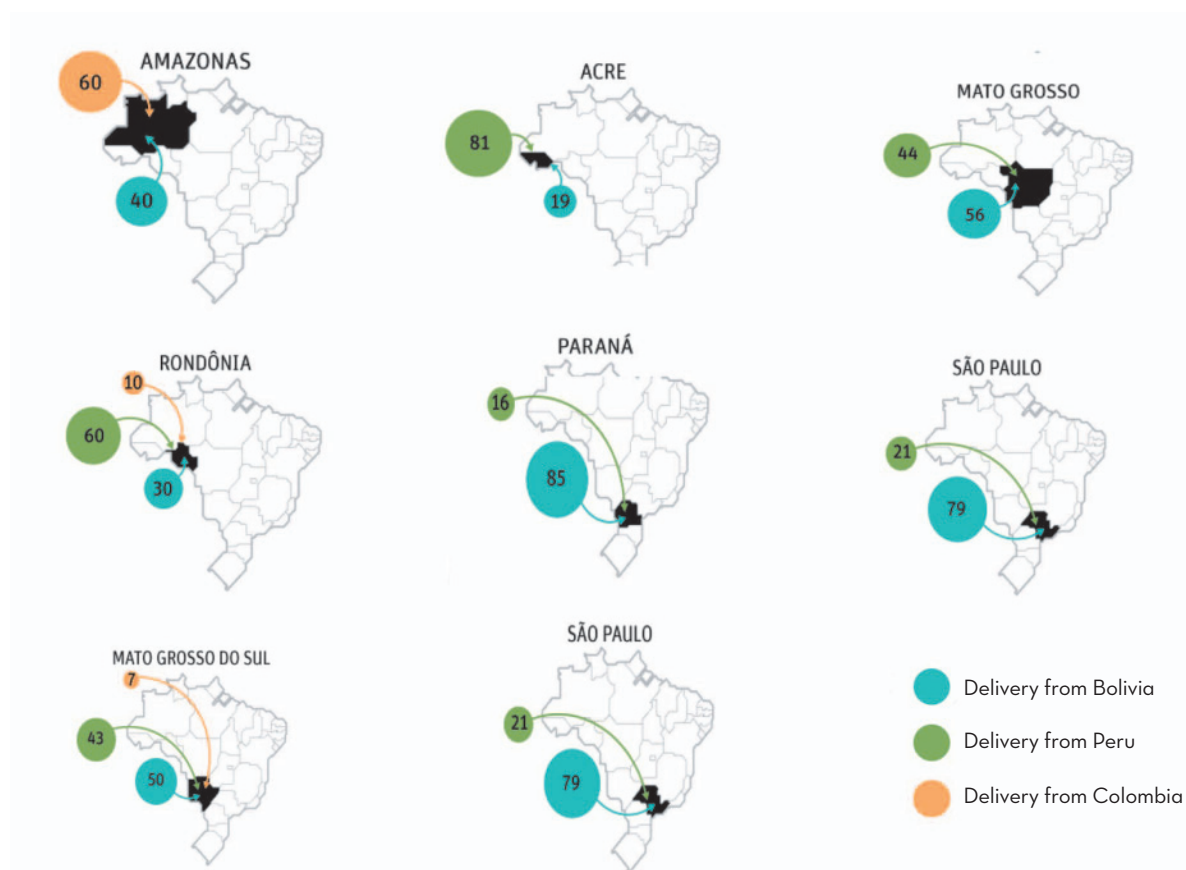
Fernandinho Beira Mar, one of the leaders of Comando Vermelho, was captured by Colombian authorities in 2001 and extradited to Brazil. This drug trafficker was accused of exchanging weapons for drugs with FARC.

## Origin of the cocaine hydrochloride reaching Brazil according to a study carried out by the authorities



Between 2010 and 2011, the Federal Police seized 51 tonnes of cocaine. On the basis of an analysis of seized samples, it was found that 54.3% of the cocaine entering Brazil comes from Bolivia, 38% from Peru and 7.5% from Colombia.

## Cocaine hydrochloride seizures by state and origin 2010 - 2011



Source: Criminology Department, Federal Police  
"Study of the seizures carried out in 2010-2011".

## Analysis of the chemical composition and purity of the cocaine hydrochloride entering Brazil

The Brazilian Federal Police carried out a study of the chemical composition of the drugs entering the country, specifying the origin of the cocaine and crack cargoes, as well as the degree of purity of the drugs introduced by traffickers in their territory.

In this study, the experts sought truxiline, a natural component of coca leaf that varies depending on altitude, exposure to the sun, the area where the coca bush is planted, etc. This natural substance makes it possible to find whether the drug came from Bolivia, Peru or Colombia.

These laboratory studies found cases of adulterating substances such as Levamisol (11%), which is a de-worming agent (an anti-parasite substance for veterinarian use) for cattle and sheep. In addition, 8% of caffeine was found in drugs seized in São Paulo, Parana, the Federal District, and Amazonas, as well as anaesthetics (benzoin, lidocaine).

### Samples to establish the origin of the drugs



**1. Project:** (chemical profile), specifies the origin and purity of cocaine cargo.

**2. Method:** Samples of all drugs sent to Brazil are taken and sent to laboratories.

**3. Analysis:** To establish its origin, experts analyse truxiline (which is found in the coca leaf), which is present in the cocaine hydrochloride production process.

**4. Benefits of the analysis:** The Federal Police of Brazil reinforces anti-drug trafficking strategies on the borders. Identify international routes. Control trade of the chemical products used in production. Investigations against organisations.





# THE DRUG TRAFFICKING SITUATION

# Colombia



# The Drug Trafficking Situation in Colombia

## Introduction

Drug trafficking in Colombia has currently become the main factor that has an impact on security, as it has become the main generator of resources to finance Illegal Armed Groups, drug trafficking organisations, as well as the rising crime associated with this crime, which leads to the breakdown of the social fabric.

Drug trafficking is currently characterised by its changing dynamics, with respect to which State institutions have been strengthened by means of increasingly sophisticated and aggressive strategies against this scourge and related crimes. In recent years, performance has been good with the capture and neutralisation of drug traffickers who headed large organisations in Colombia and abroad, and experience in the anti-drugs fight as acquired. However, the structural reshuffling of local drug trafficking groups has led to a new stage in the fight, which seeks to prevent the rise of new leaders, as well as the migration of drug traffickers to other countries such as Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, and Central American countries. This migration and the reconfiguration of their action is due to a large extent to the Colombian Government's anti-drug strategies, together with the achievements regarding eradication, banning, and dismantling of organisations. This has forced the leaders of these organisations to migrate elsewhere, seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, which in turn, has led to the discovery of clandestine laboratories for the extraction of alkaloids (cocaine base and hydrochloride) in some countries in the Andes region, the South Cone, and now in Central America (Honduras). Likewise, in regions where borders favour these organisations, not only have those, who are catalysts to action in charge of establishing networks, been allowed to provide support to drug trafficking, but leaders can also move easily, avoiding the authorities' action and continuing to strengthen their structures from these regions.

These trends, like establishing cocaine crystallisation laboratories in border areas, are due to a large extent to the ease of acquisition of precursor chemicals in neighbouring countries, geographic conditions, roads and rivers, as well as to territories with little State control and presence.

Air and sea routes have changed: Argentina, Venezuela, and Brazil have become a bridge for drug trafficking towards Africa, from where they are distributed to European and Asian markets. In addition, Central America and the Caribbean Islands are employed as storage and redistribution centres to reach the North American market.



## Routes - Colombia - South America - Europe

In order to better approach the problem of drug trafficking in Colombia, the following factors should be taken into account: one: where events take place; two: the individuals who are directly or indirectly part of criminal activity; three: a number of items, ranging from coke, marijuana, and poppy plants to their final product: cocaine or heroin, chemical products and money, among others; and four: crimes associated with the production, trafficking, and marketing of drugs and psychoactive substances. The interdependency of these factors configures the following scenarios:



## Traditional routes – Colombia – Central America – Europe – Africa

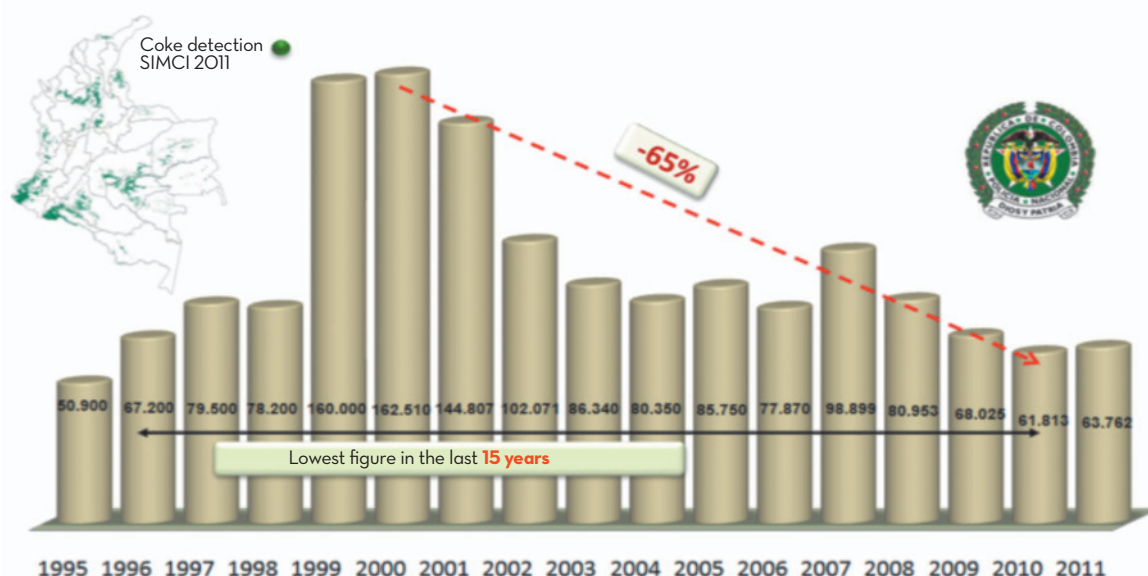
The first factor provides information about crop areas, substance collection, production laboratories, cocaine base marketing activities, and security schemes. The area is characterised by its location in a jungle area, far from urban areas, where settlers establish themselves and there is the influence of illegal armed groups. Commercial activity there makes basic survival possible, as near these locations there are towns with a higher number of residents, with commercial activity and cash flows.

## Illegal crops

Eradication of illegal crops (spraying and manual eradication) has served as a complementary tool in the strategy against the first link of the drug trafficking chain (illegal crops). This has led the agents in charge of these plantations to change their techniques to continue this illegal economy, seeking areas where detection and intervention are difficult and where it appears as an opportunity in the face of social need, being constituted as an informal economy.

The June 2012 SIMCI Report registered a 3% increase in the coca crop surface area in Colombia in 2011. But it should be pointed out that the cultivated area in 2011 (63,762 hectares) is less than half the cultivated area in 2001 (144,800 hectares).

## Decrease of coke crops in Colombia 1995-2010



Source: Colombia Drugs Monitoring Centre – SIMCI 2011  
Figures in hectares

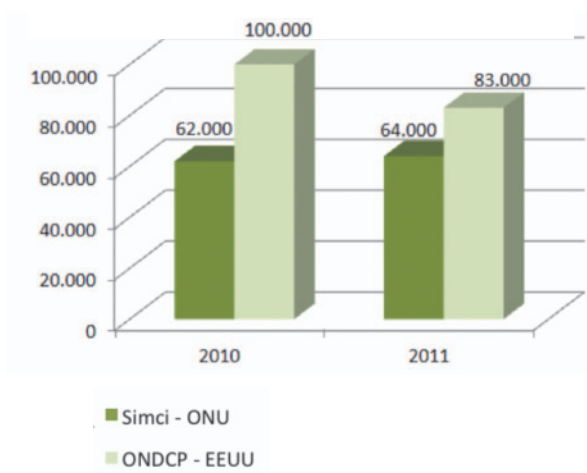
## The ten municipalities with the largest cultivated areas in 2011

Municipality	Department	Coca crop (ha)	Census %
Tumaco	Nariño	5.771	7%
Barbacoas	Nariño	2.857	4%
Puerto Asís	Putumayo	2.786	4%
Miraflores	Guaviare	2.560	4%
Roberto Payán	Nariño	2.297	4%
Cumaribo	Vichada	2.249	4%
San José del Guaviare	Guaviare	1.877	3%
Maguí	Nariño	1.720	3%
Puerto Leguizamo	Putumayo	1.717	3%
El Tambo	Cauca	1.645	3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>25.479</b>	<b>39%</b>

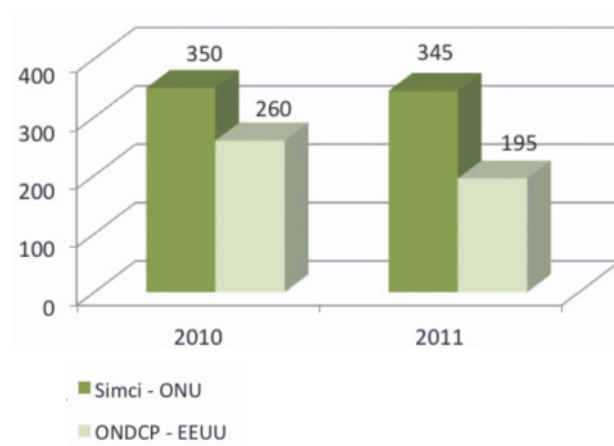
The municipality of Tumaco continues to have the largest coca cultivated area in the country, with 5,771 hectares. The municipalities of Tierralta, El Retorno and Timbiquí exit the list of the 10 municipalities with the largest cultivated areas and are replaced by Maguí, Puerto Leguizamo, and El Tambo.

According to SIMCI, in 14 of the 23 departments affected there was a reduction in the coca cultivated area, in 6 (six) of them there was an increase, whereas 3 (three) remained the same. Nariño department continues to have the largest coca cultivated areas.

Coke crops in hectares 2010-2011



Production potencial in metric tonnes 2010-2011



The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) stated that coca crops in Colombia dropped to 83,000 hectares.

The increase registered by SIMCI does not necessarily reflect an increase in cocaine hydrochloride production. Both SIMCI and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) stated that between 2010 and 2011 there was a decrease in cocaine hydrochloride production potential.

According to the SIMCI report, the average annual production of fresh coca leaf per hectare in kg went from 4,400 in 2010 to 4,200 in 2011.

The drop in production potential and in fresh coca leaf production is the result of the efforts made by the National Police and the Anti-Narcotics Directorate (DIRAN), which have forced growers to move their crops and replant the coca bushes. This leads to the collection of less mature leafs with a lower amount of alkaloids, which entails a lower cocaine hydrochloride production.

The Putumayo-Caquetá Region had the largest increase in cultivated area, from 7,363 hectares to 13,278 hectares, which represents an 80% increase

The region which experiences the greatest impact is the Pacífico Region, with 26,789 hectares, which represents 42% of the cultivated area. 63% of the cultivated area is located in four (4) departments: Nariño, Putumayo, Guaviare and Cauca.

## Coca Crops by Department (2005-2011)

The coca cultivated area in Colombia as of the 31 December 2011 cut-off date is 64,000 hectares, which is regarded as stable with respect to the measurement of 31 December 2010. In 14 of the 23 departments involved there was a reduction in the coca cultivated area, in 6 (six) it increased, whereas 3 (three) remained the same. Nariño department continues to have the largest coca cultivated areas.

Department	Dec. 2005	Dec. 2006	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2010	Dec. 2011	% 2010-2011 Change	% of 2011 total
Nariño*	13.875	15.606	20.259	19.612	17.639	15.951	17.231	+ 8%	27%
Putumayo*	8.963	12.254	14.813	9.658	5.633	4.785	9.951	+ 108%	16%
Guaviare*	8.658	9.477	9.299	6.629	8.660	5.701	6.839	+ 20%	11%
Cauca	2.705	2.104	4.168	5.422	6.597	5.908	6.066	= 3%	10%
Norte de Santander	844	488	1.946	2.886	3.037	1.889	3.490	+ 85%	5%
Caquetá	4.988	4.967	6.318	4.303	3.985	2.578	3.327	+ 29%	5%
Antioquia*	6.414	6.157	9.926	6.096	5.096	5.350	3.104	- 42%	5%
Meta	17.305	11.063	10.386	5.525	4.469	3.008	3.040	= 1%	5%
Chocó	1.025	816	1.080	2.794	1.789	3.158	2.511	- 21%	4%
Vinchada*	7.826	5.523	7.218	3.174	3.228	2.743	2.264	- 17%	4%
Bolívar	3.670	2.382	5.632	5.847	5.346	3.324	2.207	- 34%	3%
Córdoba	3.136	1.216	1.858	1.710	3.113	3.889	1.088	- 72%	2%
Valle del Cauca	28	281	453	2.089	997	665	981	+ 48%	2%
Santander	981	866	1.325	1.791	1.066	673	595	- 12%	1%
Guainía	752	753	623	625	606	446	318	- 29%	0,5%
Vaupés	671	460	307	557	395	721	277	- 62%	0,4%
Arauca	1.883	1.306	2.116	447	430	247	132	- 46%	0,2%
Amazonas	897	692	541	836	312	338	122	- 64%	0,2%
Boyacá	342	441	79	197	204	105	93	- 11%	0,1%
Caldas	189	461	56	187	186	46	46	= 0%	0,1%
Magdalena	213	271	278	391	169	121	46	- 62%	0,1%
Cundinamarca	56	120	131	12	0	32	18	- 43%	0,03%
La Guajira*	329	166	87	160	182	134	16	- 88%	0,03%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85.750</b>	<b>77.870</b>	<b>98.899</b>	<b>80.948</b>	<b>73.139</b>	<b>61.812</b>	<b>63.762</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Rounded total	86.000	78.000	99.000	81.000	73.000	62.000	64.000	3%	
Number of Departments involved	23	23	23	24	22	23	23		

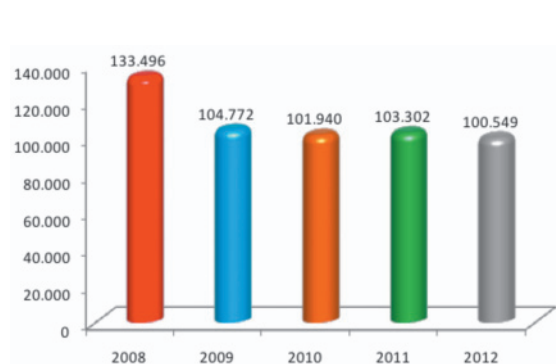
Between 2007 and 2011, there was a second period of sustained reduction of the coca cultivated area in Colombia. Despite the reported stability in 2010 and 2011 (+3%), it is not possible to ascertain whether this is a break in the downward trend. It should be pointed out that coca crops found in the 2011 census took up 1.6% of all cultivable land in Colombia.

- Last year, there was an increase, especially in border areas, indigenous reservations and Afro-Colombian communities.
- 9% of coca crops (6,004 hectares) are located in indigenous reservations, which are protected by the prior consultation instrument. There was a 3.5% increase between 2010 and 2011. (Source: SIMCI).

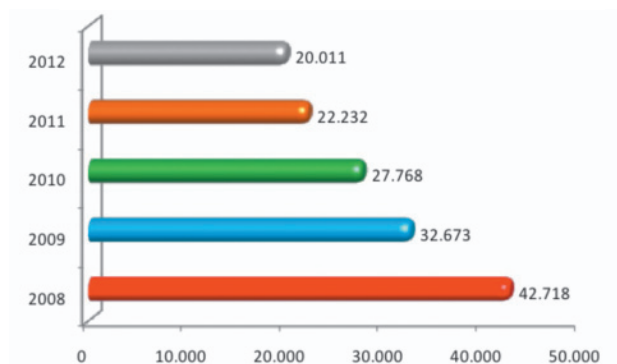
- The percentage of coca crops in community councils belonging to Afro-Colombian communities increased from 1% of the total in 2001 to 25% in 2011. (Source: SIMCI).
- 23% of the total coca crops are located in the municipalities along the Southern border of Colombia. It should be pointed out that Colombia has signed a non-spraying agreement with Ecuador in a 10-km border area. (Source: SIMCI).
- Even though the cultivated area in natural parks has decreased in recent years, in 2011 almost 5% of the coca cultivation areas is located in national natural parks. (Source: SIMCI).

## National Police of Columbia / Anti-Narcotics Directorate

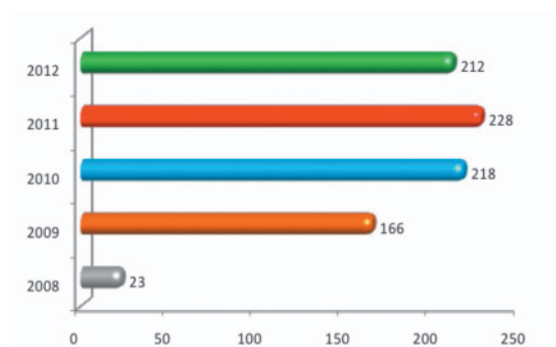
Aerial Spraying



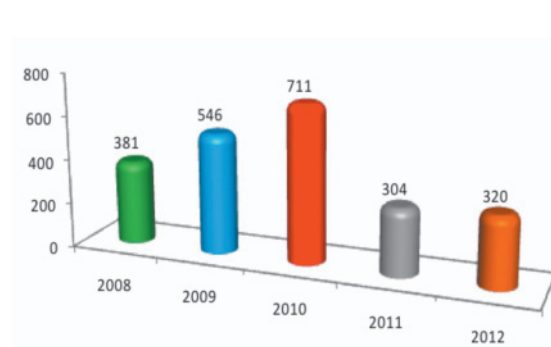
Manual eradication of coca



Manual eradication of marijuana



Manual eradication of poppy



Source: National Police Statistical, Criminal, and Operational Information System - SIEDCO.

## Marijuana

According to the National Police investigation through the Anti-Narcotics Directorate in 2011, the greater concentration of marijuana crops in Colombia was located in the Cauca, Magdalena and Meta departments, with a total of 128 hectares.

Marijuana detection by Cauca municipalities (DIRAN) 2008-2011

Department	Municipality	2008	2009	2010	2011
CAUCA	Caloto	67	40	18,5	10,5
	Corinto	195	78	22	26,5
	Miranda	200			
	Toribio	25	4	27,5	8,5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>45,5</b>
MAGDALENA	Aracataca				
	Cienaga	64,4	39	18,5	7,5
	Santamarta	5,5	9	4	45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>69,9</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>22,5</b>	<b>52,5</b>
TOLIMA	Río Blanco				
	Planadas				
	Ataco				
	Chaparral				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
META	Lejanias				30
	<b>Total</b>				<b>30</b>
<b>Total general</b>		<b>597</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>90,5</b>	<b>128</b>

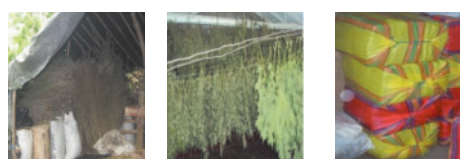
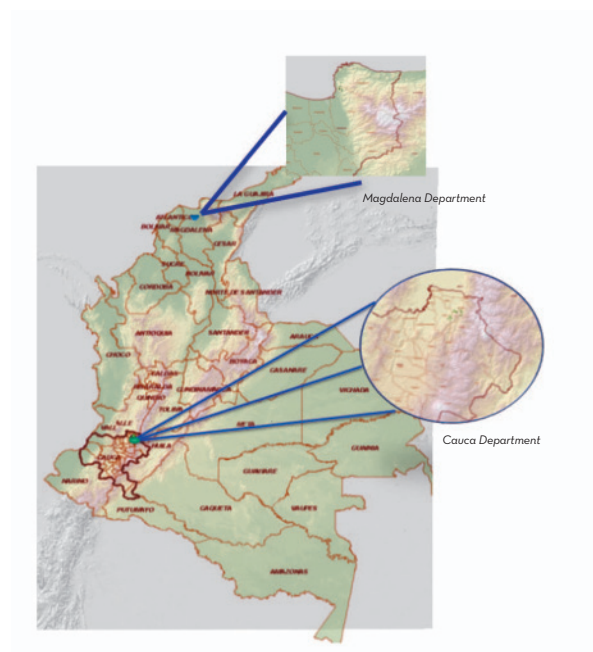
Marijuana detection 2011

Department	Municipality	HAS
CAUCA	Caloto	10,5
	Corinto	26,5
	Toribio	8,5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45,5</b>

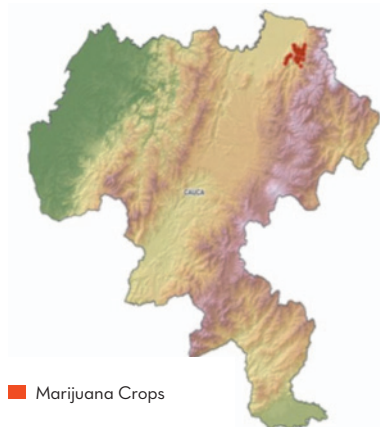
Department	Municipality	HAS
MAGDALENA	Cienaga	7,5
	Santamarta	45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52,5</b>

Department	Municipality	HAS
META	Lejanias	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

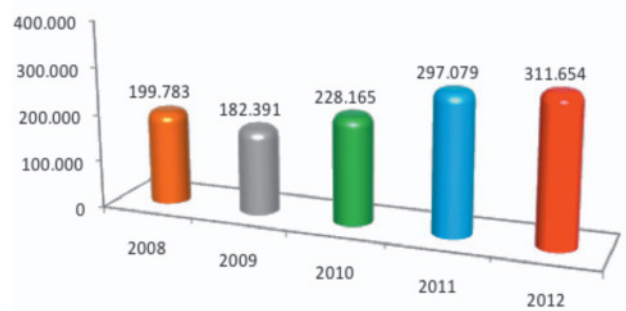
<b>Total general</b>	<b>128</b>
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Marijuana detection by Cauca municipalities (DIRAN) Cauca 2011



Detection of marijuana (kg)



Source: National Police Statistical, Criminal, and Operational Information System - SIEDCO.

Department	Municipality	HAS
CAUCA	Caloto	27
	Corinto	11
	Toribio	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

The sector with the largest marijuana cultivated areas is in the north of the Cauca Department. Crime organisations which grow, produce, and market are located in the Municipality of Corinto and some NEARBY municipalities. They use various main and alternative routes from the Municipality of Corinto (Cauca) and in particularly move through the Co-

rinto-Padilla-Puerto Tejada and Northern Valle Department route. Drugs are concealed in heavy-duty vehicles and informants are used to report on the Police Forces check points. It should be pointed out that most of these substances are delivered to the towns of Pereira, Armenia, Manizales, Medellín, Cali and Buenaventura.

## Poppy

Poppy crops: the Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the Colombian National Police has detected that poppy crops in Colombia was approximately 338 hectares in 2011. The largest cultivated areas are located in Nariño (68%) and Cauca (30%). The production potential is 8.3 MT for latex and 1 MT for heroin.

Poppy crops in Colombina by Department, 2003-2011 (in hectares)

Department	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Nariño	540	460	475	316	204	24	238	234	229
Cauca	600	450	538	448	280	126	100	92	102
Huila	636	1135	320	114	45	45	11	12	5
Tolima	1.359	1090	265	90	170	170	3	3	2
Cesar	651	675	152	3	7	18	2,5	-	-
Valle de Cauca	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,5	-	-
La Guajira	240	35	68	-	2	4	-	-	-
Coquetá	-	105	132	52	7	7	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.026</b>	<b>3.950</b>	<b>1.950</b>	<b>1.023</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>338</b>

Source: DIRAN

## Cocaine Production

Taking into account conversion rates (average cocaine base purity = 81% and 1:1 conversion rate from cocaine base to cocaine hydrochloride), the production of cocaine base in 2011 amounted to 345 mt of pure cocaine.

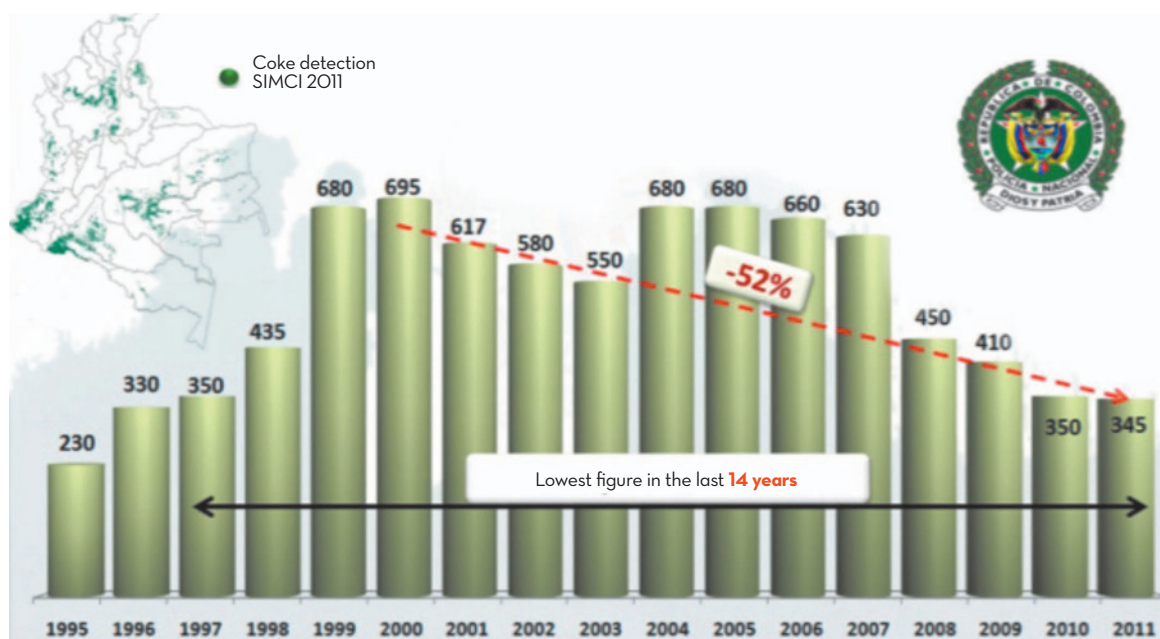
In 2011, a study on production and yield in the North Colombian regions was carried out: Catatumbo, Sur de Bolívar and Sierra Nevada. Studies were also carried out in these regions in 2005 and 2007.

According to the data obtained in crop tests, the production of coca leaf in South Bolívar remains on a downwards trend, dropping from 6,600 kg/hectare/year in 2005 to 5,700 kg/hectare/year in 2007 and 4,000 kg/hectare/year in 2011. However, crops increased from 3.3 in 2005 to 4.5 in 2011.

There was a drop in production in the Catatumbo Region between 2005 and 2007, from 4,600 kg/hectare/year to 4,200 kg/hectare/year, but rose to 5,500 kg/hectare/year in 2011. Crops dropped from 4.5 in 2005 to 4.0 in 2011.

The production process has various stages, which include the extraction of the base paste, oxidation and re-oxidation of the cocaine base and obtaining cocaine hydrochloride. Base paste is the first product obtained in the process of alkaloid extraction and contains organic residues. The cocaine base is obtained by dissolving the base paste in an acid medium and adding an oxidising agent, such as potassium permanganate, to remove impurities. The re-oxidised base is used to homogenise the cocaine base. This process consists in oxidation of the paste or base in the laboratory, bringing it to a standard oxidation state. Source: SIMCI 2011

### Decrease in cocaine production in Colombia 1995-2011



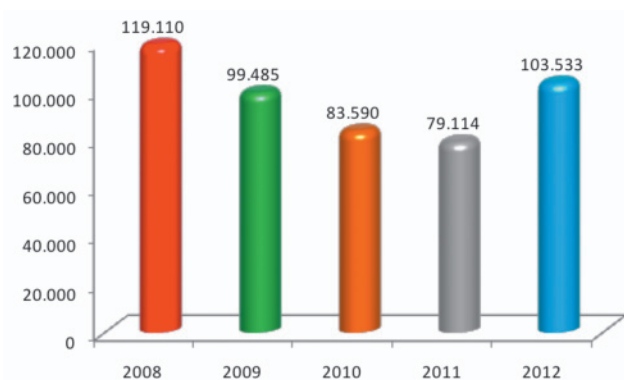
Metric tones. Source: Colombian Observatory on Drugs - SIMCI 2011

## Seizures by the Colombian National Police

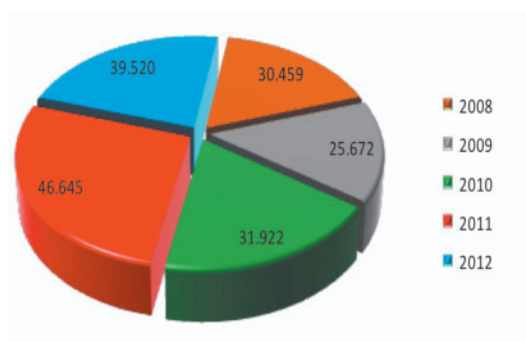
Between 1 January and 31 December 2011, 79,114 kg of cocaine hydrochloride were seized in various Colombian departments. 103,533 kg of cocaine hydrochloride were seized in 2012.



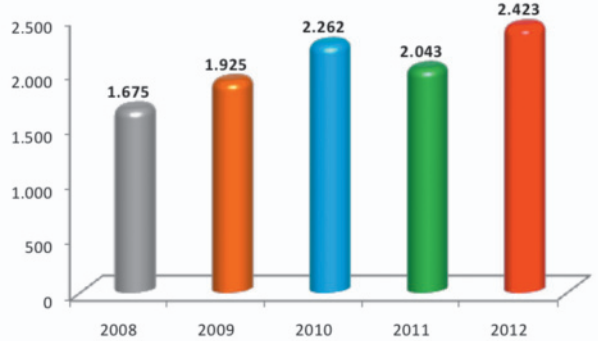
**Cocaine hydrochloride seized (kg)**  
(TOTAL: 484.832 KG)



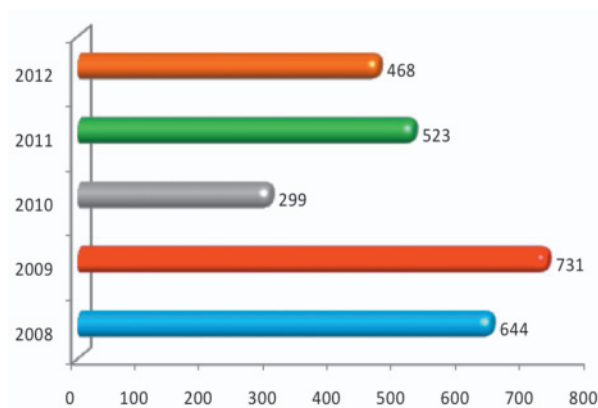
**Cocaine base seized (kg)**  
(TOTAL: 174.218 KG)



**Basuco seized (kg)**  
(TOTAL: 10.328 KG)



**Heroin seized (kg)**  
(TOTAL: 2.665 KG)



Source: Operative Statistics Information System, National Police - SIEDCO

## Intervention and destruction of drug manufacturing infrastructures

The destruction of laboratories, as a National Police strategy, has become a significant factor to halt drug production, as it not only weakens the finances of illegal armed organisations (FARC, BACRIM ELN), but also prevents the trafficking of large amounts of cocaine.

The regions with the largest number of cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride laboratories are those where there are significant coca leaf production centres: Bajo Cauca Antioqueño and Sur de Córdoba, Catatumbo, Pacífico chocoano, Meta, Vichada, Cauca, Nariño, Putumayo. Several significant centres, such as Caquetá, Chocó, Guaviare and Sierra Nevada remain pending.

Destroyed laboratories

Year	Coke base	Cocaine	Heroin	Permanganate	Total
2008	1.590	161	4	4	1.759
2009	1.550	189		2	1.741
2010	1.352	158	2	4	1.516
2011	1.035	128	1	7	1.171
2012	1.012	152	1	4	1.169
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.527</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7.356</b>

Source: SIEDCO

The dismantling of laboratories where cocaine hydrochloride is manufactured near urban centres minimises transport costs for the chemical substances or elements used in this process, which may worsen the problem in these areas, as organisations seek to make a profit.

## Chemical Substances

A second scenario is the provision of the logistics chain required in production areas within a regional domain, such as supply of chemical substances, transport means, communication equipment and security schemes. These actions are concealed in the everyday life of towns, which gives them an appearance of normality.

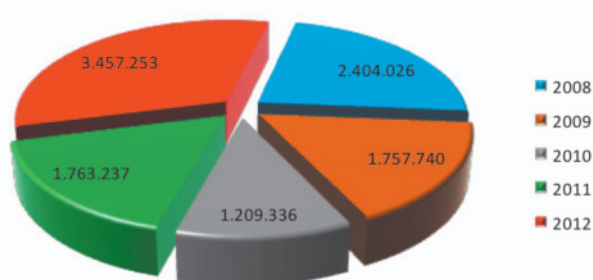
The region is associated with business, industrial, commercial, and financial development. One town-region stands out as the epicentre around which other peripheral towns revolve, which have a direct link to coca crops and drug production. These conditions make it possible for drug trafficking organisations to establish a settlement, which carry out leadership and mediation activities in drug distribution and marketing, with a direct influence on production areas and the capacity to take part in the illegal drug market in other regions in Colombia and on a transnational level.

The strengths of these criminal organisations are based on their financial power arising from their illegal activity: this provides them with protection schemes, private justice groups, use of cutting-edge tech-

nology in the business value chain (production, distribution, and marketing, money laundering), involvement in corruption and inclusion of illegal money in the primary base of local and regional economy by means of front men.

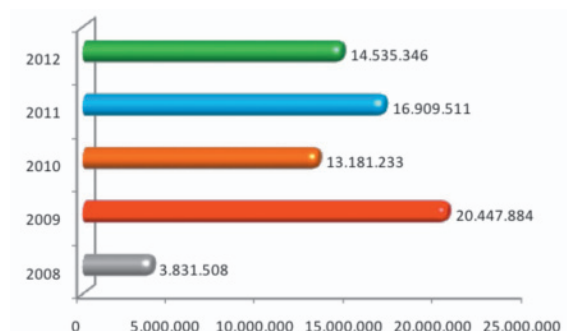
Some of the substances use in illegal drug production are brought through across the border with neighbouring countries, such as Brazil, Venezuela and Ecuador, and are transported to the laboratories using different mechanisms, such as smuggling or deviation from legal industry. According to the seizures carried out by law enforcement groups, substances come mostly from Asia, Europe, North and South America.

Seized and immobilised liquid materials (GI)



Source: SIEDCO.

Seized and immobilised liquid materials (Kg)  
(TOTAL: 68.905.482 KG)



Liquid input

Year	Seized	Fixed assets	Total
2008	777.104	1.626.922	2.404.026
2009	684.109	1.073.631	1.757.740
2010	640.997	568.339	1.209.336
2011	1.035.298	727.939	1.763.237
2012	1.097.432	2.359.821	3.457.253
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.234.940</b>	<b>6.356.652</b>	<b>10.591.592</b>

Source: SIEDCO.

## Trafficking

A third factor is the national and international domain where relationships between the drug trafficking structures in various countries in the region and in the world are established, on the basis of knowledge of trafficking routes and the availability of logistics chains for distribution of illegal drugs. To do so, they use external trade transport infrastructures, sea ports and airports, by means of the contamination of goods or human couriers. However, the police force check points in this sector force drug trafficking organisations to use clandestine landing strips and sites for the departure of aeroplanes and vessels.

This factor is associated with strategic location on the Atlantic and Pacific coast, which makes it possible for vessels and aircraft to depart, carrying large drug volumes. In addition, fuel supply spots are made available at sea and landing strips in other countries.

## Land Trafficking

- Use of various concealment methods (luggage and adapted compartments).
- Use of smugglers or human couriers for cocaine base trafficking (taped, ingested, and in packages).
- Use of border roads for exit and entry of illegal drugs.

## Sea Trafficking

- Use of speed boats, fishing boats (with flags from different countries), semi-submarines, taxi crafts.
- Internal conspiracies among port public servants.
- Supply of fuel or supplies to mother ships.
- Use of estuaries for the construction of semi-submarines, storage centres.
- Special use in the Eastern area of navigable rivers such as the Meta, Tomo, Vichada, Guaviare, Inírida to introduce chemical substances and drug delivery via the Orinoco river from and towards Venezuela.
- Blending in using motor boats and small fishing vessels with legitimate pleasure craft sea traffic.

## Air Trafficking

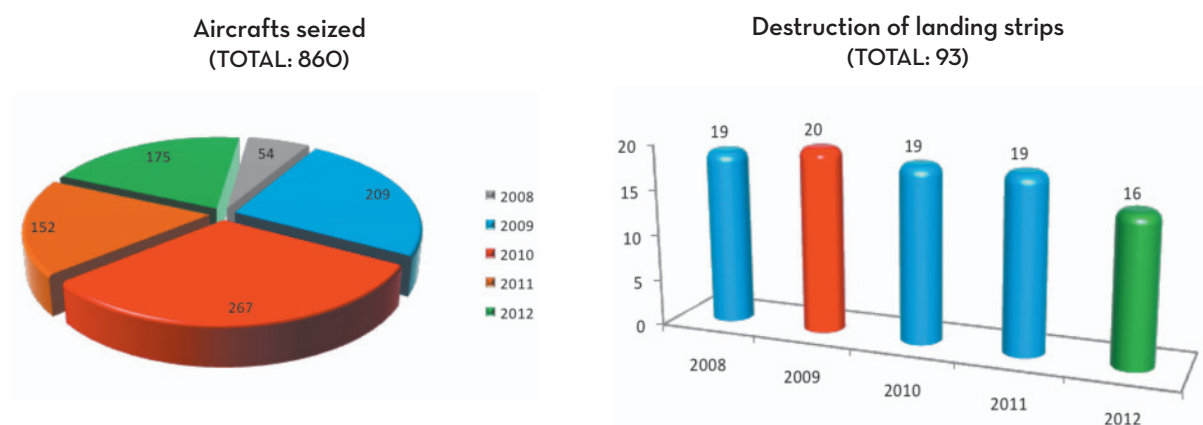
In some areas of Colombia, such as the departments of Antioquia, Córdoba and La Guajira, activity takes place by means of small aircrafts, which perform illegal flights to neighbouring countries such as Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Panama.

- Increase in the use of couriers, packages and drug smuggling networks (microtrafficking).
- Use of foreign aircrafts (some stolen or replicated).
- Use of legally constituted companies that serve as fronts in foreign trade.
- Use of high-performance aircrafts that avoid interception by current means.
- Use of illegal landing strips near borders and from production centres to storage sites.
- Bombing in high sea, later loading onto motor boats.
- Increase in use of charter flights.
- Increase in the number of foreign couriers.
- Internal conspiracies among airport public servants.
- Migration of activities to neighbouring countries.



## Clandestine Landing Strips

Another significant factor is the increase in the use of clandestine landing strips, located in such departments as Bolívar, Cesar, Córdoba, Cundinamarca, Guainía, Guajira, Huila, Magdalena, Meta, North Santander and Sucre, where there are subsequently delivered in Cessna aircrafts headed for countries such as Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Belize and the Dominican Republic.



## Concealment methods that facilitate drug trafficking

**Packages:** use of false information in dispatch records, use of items such as: books, china, CDs, photographs, spare parts, suitcases, pictures, sheets, toys, food packages, manila envelopes allegedly containing important documents, beer barrels, a method called “microtrafficking”, among others.

**Passenger luggage:** clothes impregnated with liquids, double-bottom suitcases and suitcases bearing "private" labels, simulating diplomatic pouches.

**Drug couriers:** one of the most frequent methods. Drugs are ingested, inserted, and/or taped to the body, using capsules covered in black paste and dissolved cocaine to avoid X-ray detection. Mainly Spanish, Dominican, Venezuelan, Filipino, Mexican, and Dutch couriers are used.

Concealment of drugs in secret compartments (hiding places) to reach departure points, particularly ports and storage centres in border areas, or by means of people who carry small drug amounts by air, sea, and land called “ant smuggling”.

Use of heavy-duty vehicles transporting food products, animal food, hydrocarbons and fertilisers, among others, in order to deflect attention from the real load.

Trafficking of substances with the appearance of pharmaceutical drugs: e.g. heroin, packaged as tablets, and synthetic drug pills, found in luggage and packages.

## Marketing and Distribution

Criminal agents involved in drug trafficking have been forced to change their modus operandi, using endless methods to reach consumption markets in production and transit countries and internationally in delivery of alkaloids, by means of small vessels departing from storage centres, semi-submarines, by air, among others (as previously described).

There is currently an increase in marketing and distribution via “narcomenudeo” (small-scale drug dealing), which continues to be of concern for authorities, particularly in large cities. A large part of the illegal drug production remains in Colombia to cover internal demand, so criminal organisations transferred part of their business to narcomenudeo activities, making use of internet via e-mail or social networks and mobile phones, with payment on delivery.

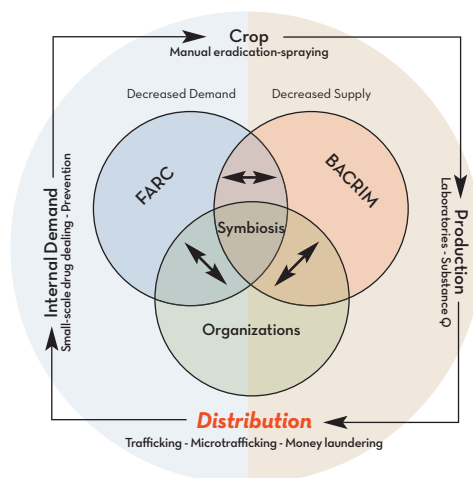
It is important to have a conceptual view of two factors that are part of the structure of drug trafficking namely “microtrafficking” and “narcomenudeo” (small-scale drug dealing). These are the result of supply and demand conditions, and its forms, diversification, and marketing follow the logic of this illegal market.

## MICROTRAFFICKING

The trafficking (by air, land, river, or sea) of small amounts of illegal substances, transformed and concealing their appearance (physically - chemically) in order to circumvent authority controls, preventing detection, and minimising the risk of loss. This method involves frequent delivery until large amounts are received.

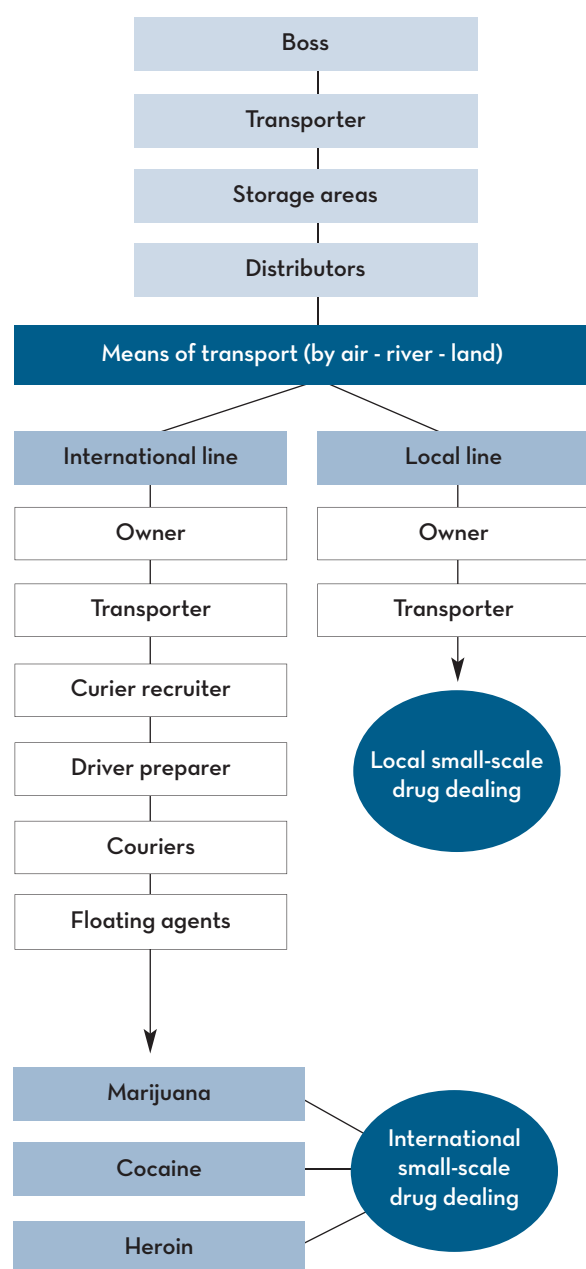
### Scenarios:

- Transport from production centres to consumption centres.
- Border passes.
- Public spots.



Types	Methods
Human courier	Ingested - Taped - Inserted - Impregnated
Tampered postal deliveries	Goods: Crafts - Books - Food - Etc.
Tampered equipment	Suitcase: Rubberised - Double bottom - Abandoned
Means of transport	Adapted compartments: Chassis - Tyres - Petrol tanks - Floor - Roof

### Organisational structure



**Owner:** (Boss) Cargo capitalist.

**Transporter:** In charge of transporting the drugs from the laboratories to the storage centres.

**Chemists:** Subject the drug to thermal procedures in order to hide it or change its appearance (diluted, black, paste, rubberised cocaine, etc.).

**Courier recruiter:** In charge of persuading people, by means of illegal proposals (deceit and pressure) to serve as human couriers.

**Preparer:** (Driver) In charge of instructing couriers in the ingestion of capsules and the way to act at authority controls.

**Courier:** Person who carries the drugs taped, ingested or inserted, in double-bottom suitcases or as goods.

**Document manager:** In charge of processing the travel documents (visa, passport, legal certificate).

**Logistics operators:** Work in all types of transport companies and are bribed by drug trafficking networks to tamper with the goods.

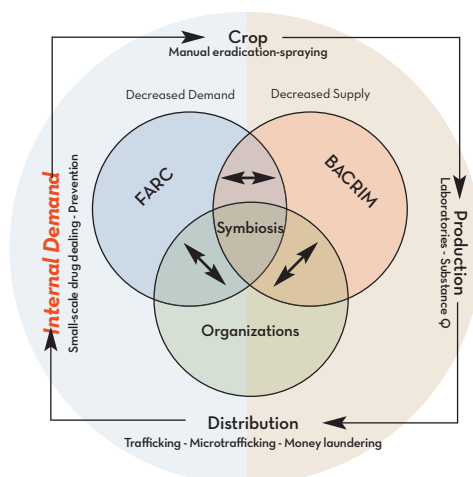
**Retriever:** In charge of retrieving the hidden, taped or impregnated substances. In addition, cuts and adulterates the drug for small-scale drug dealing.

## SMALL-SCALE DRUG DEALING

The distribution, marketing, "promotion and sale" of illegal substances in small amounts (doses) carried out by local networks for distribution in urban and rural areas. It is also a social problem where several State institutions work together for prevention (consumption) and control.

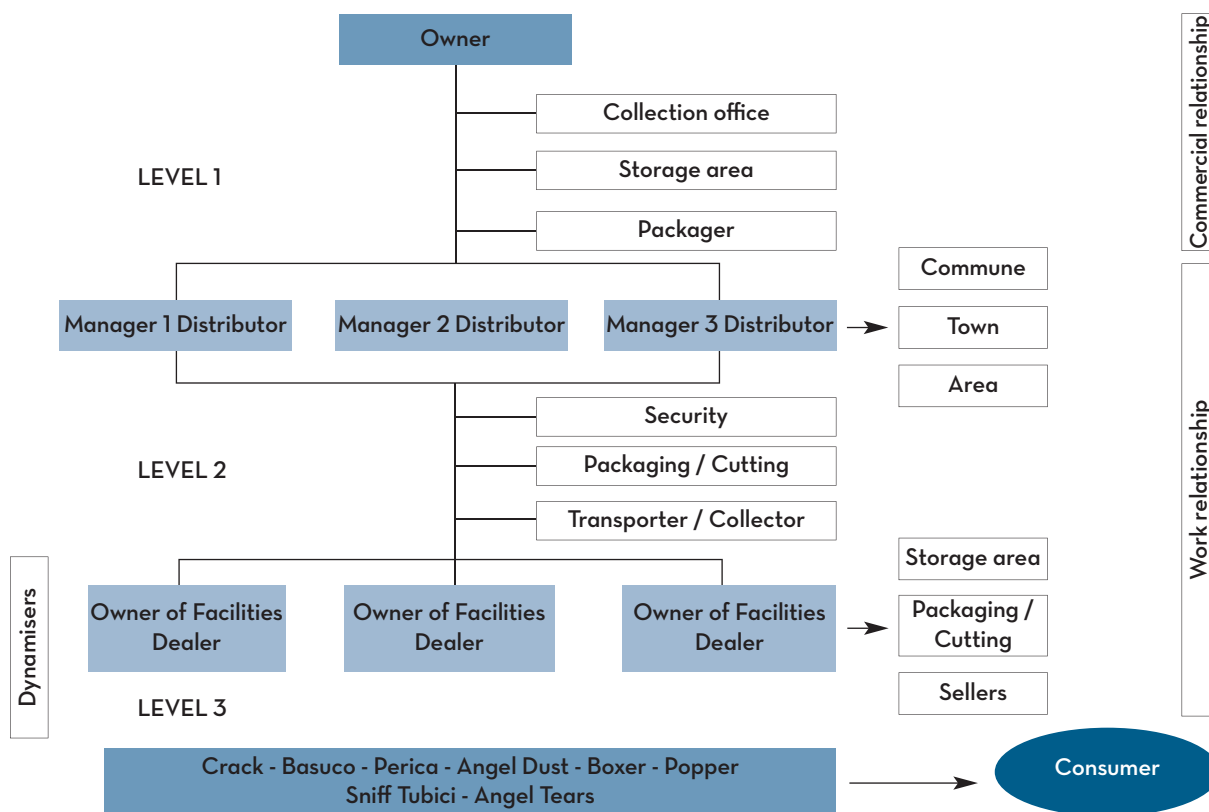
### Contextual situation:

- Illicit Business dominated mostly by family clans and criminal structures.
- Involvement of minors of age in the sale, distribution and consumption.



Types	Methods
Agents	Dealers - Street vendor - Guard - Establishment owner - Students - Minors
Strategic	Locations: Parks - Streets - Shops - Schools (hidden beneath rocks, chairs, grass, in cracks...)
Means of Transport	Motorcycle - Bicycle - On foot

### Organisational Structure



## Description of the problem

Phenomenon determined by the proliferation of distribution networks around drug consumption points in different parts of the city.

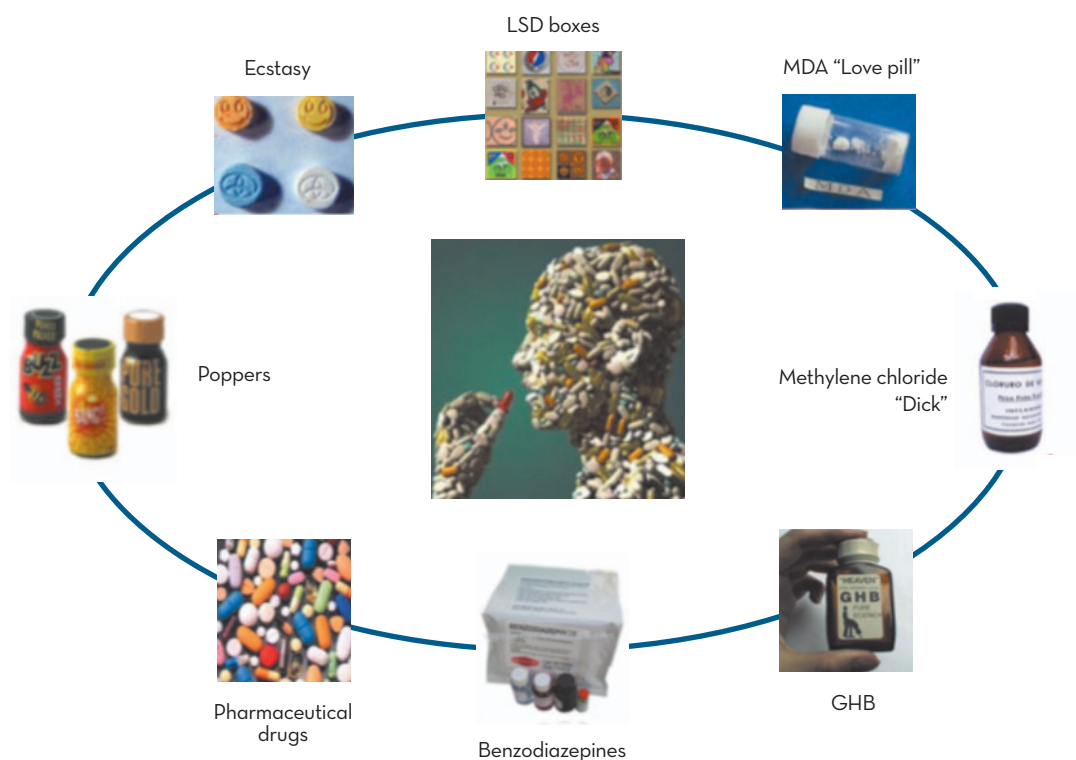
### Basic characteristics of domestic drug trafficking

Illegal Activity boosters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unemployment</li><li>• New addictions</li><li>• Market trends (offer-demand)</li></ul>
Offer and demand axis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools</li><li>• Universities</li><li>• Marginal Areas</li><li>• Public Facilities</li></ul>
"Business" and criminal dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family</li><li>• Youth Gangs</li><li>• Criminal organizations</li></ul>
Micro-trafficking connotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mono-doses</li><li>• Neighborhood distribution</li></ul>

## Synthetic drugs

The anti-drug trafficking experience acquired has led to significant achievements as regards trafficking control and the prevention of the marketing of psychoactive substances, as well as considerable strikes against the leaders in charge of the supply of these substances in the internal market. This has led trafficking organisations to seek other options to introduce or impose the use of new substances and modes of consumption in the population. In particular among young people, who find in these substances a way of meeting their needs which is not so conspicuous to control authorities. In addition, the absence of legal instruments in some countries where substance use is widespread ensures the increase of their inordinate consumption. This makes synthetic drugs one of the most profitable and prosperous illegal industries, which has an impact on the economy and development of Colombia. Indiscriminate use of this kind of substance also has social, cultural, and public health consequences.

Designer or synthetic drugs are chemically modified substances, slightly different in their molecular structure from the drugs from which they are derived, but with the same effects on the central nervous system.



These drugs are manufactured by modifying pharmaceutical drugs to obtain chemical structures with psychoactive effects or the synthesis of substances that replicate the structure of natural substances obtained from plants. As they are fully manufactured in chemical laboratories, they may be highly adulterated, which poses a greater risk to health when consumed.

Considering this information, synthetic or designer drugs have quickly climbed the ranks in the world of drug trafficking.

## Main pivotal drug trafficking organisations FARC- BACRIMs

Involvement of FARC as the main driving force in the drug trafficking chain is obvious through 12 structures divided into 4 blocs: Iván Ríos (3), Western (3), Southern (3) and Eastern Joint Commandos (Commander Jorge Briceño) (3), which constitute the backbone of the terrorist organisation to finance terrorism in Colombia.

The drug trafficking dynamics that has funded FARC leads to more active positioning of some of its fronts in drug trafficking, establishing Blocs and Commandos as structures that clearly facilitate this illegal business, directly aiding and abetting the acquisition of weapons and financial resources to remain in a state of frequent terrorist activity.

The various operative actions carried out by the Police Forces to destroy coca bush crops have given rise to unrest within FARC, which has used various terrorist mechanisms, including minefields, ambushes, etc. against the members of eradication teams.

## Georeferencing - Situation Scenarios (FARC-DRUG TRAFFICKING)



### A. IVÁN RÍOS BLOC

#### FRONT 18



Alfredo Alarcón  
aka "Román Ruiz"

#### FRONT 36



Aka "Anderson  
or Carranza"

#### FRONT 57



Gilberto Torres  
aka "Becerro"

### B. EASTERN BLOC JORGE BRICEÑO

#### FRONT 1



Aka "Arsenio  
or Kokoriko"

#### FRONT 16



Aka "Victor Tirado"

#### FRONT 44



Elmer Caviedes  
aka "Albeiro Córdoba"

### C. JOINT WESTERN BLOC

#### FRONT 29



Alias "John Jairo  
aka Aldemar"

#### FRONT 30



Jorge Meftali Umenza  
aka "Mincho"

#### CM DANIEL ALDANA



Gustavo González  
aka "Rambo"

### D. SOUTHERN BLOC

#### FRONT 15



José Ventura  
aka "Wilmer"

#### FRONT 32



Aka "Caballo"

#### FRONT 48



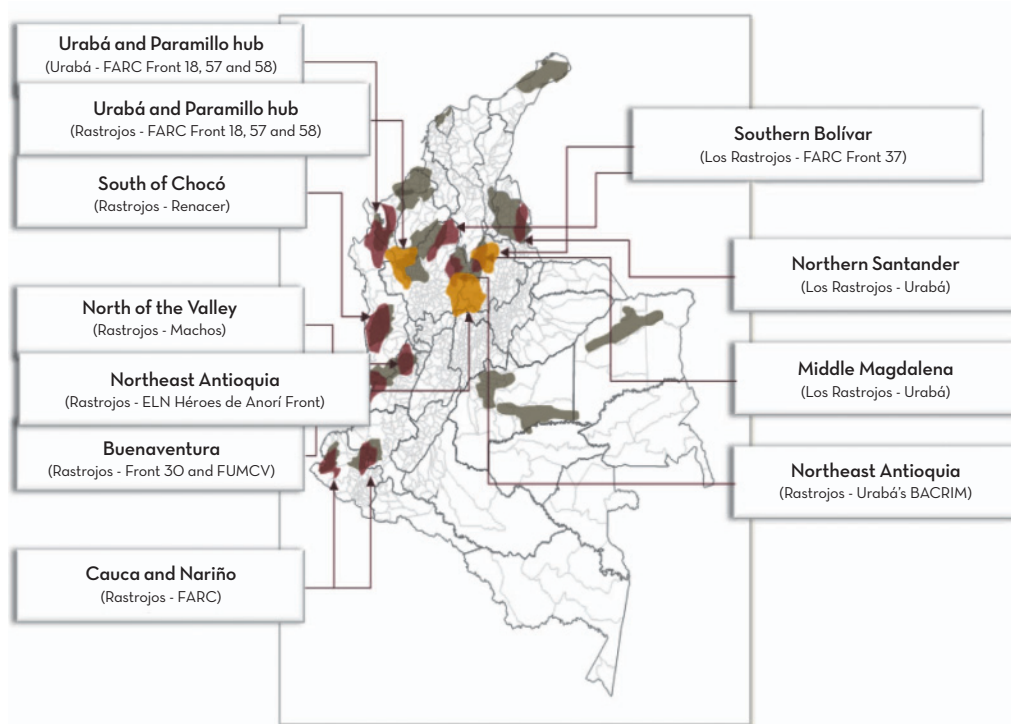
Darío Lee Díaz  
aka "Robledo"

## Origin, transition and evolution of the BACRIMs

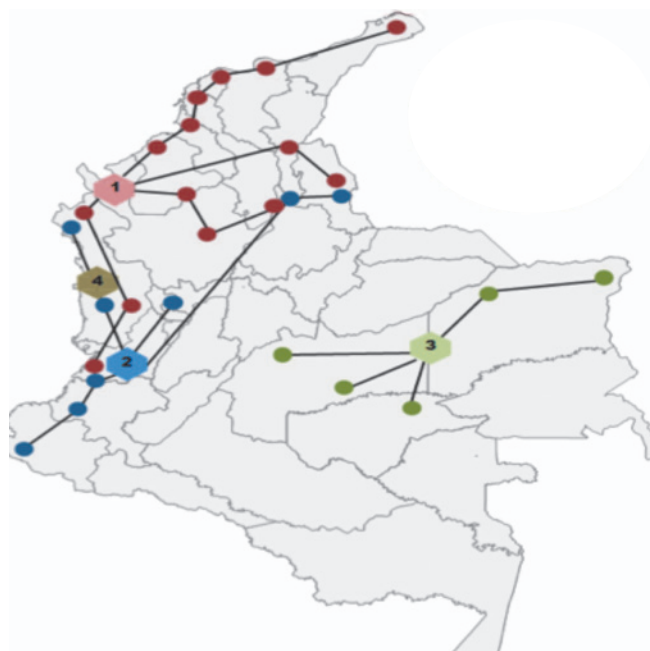


## Disputes and Alliances BACRIM

There is currently an alliance between FARC and criminal gangs to control drug trafficking in some regions of Colombia, particularly coca bush cultivated areas, which has made it possible to avoid confrontation between these groups.



## Current BACRIM situation



### 1. BACRIM Urabá

Darío Usuga aka "Otoniel"

2,370 members

92 t of cocaine produced annually



### 2. BACRIM Los Rastrojos

Aka "César"

1,150 members

105 t of cocaine produced annually



### 3. ERPAC Dissidents

Martín Farfán aka "Pijarbey"

240 members

80 t of cocaine produced annually



### 4. BACRIM Renacer

Heber Ávila aka "Ratón"

110 members

Traffic towards Central América



### BACRIM Los Machos (DISMANTLED)

Héctor Urdinola aka "El Zarco"

100 members

Impact on Cañón de las Garrapatas  
Cali cartel strongholds





## THE DRUG TRAFFICKING SITUATION

# Ecuador



# The Drug Trafficking Situation in Ecuador

## Introduction

Ecuador is used as a favorable location for collection, storage and distribution of illicit drugs nationally and internationally, in addition to trafficking of chemicals, money laundering and other threats deriving from illicit drug trafficking.

The National Government has oriented the definition of government policies regarding control of drugs supply and demand, a priority in confronting the various manifestations related to drugs under the principles generated and recognized nationally and internationally including respect of human rights, recognition of justice, freedom and individual conscience.

Ecuador's effective cooperation has been strengthened through appropriate communication channels between police agencies, drug units and international cooperation entities. These bilateral and multilateral relations have also allowed reciprocal legal assistance and scientific technical training for law enforcement officers in the region, and other continents.

The National Antinarcotics Directorate of the National Police of Ecuador in managing the phenomenon of drugs in Ecuador applied various coping strategies, which were primarily effective in controlling the supply and demand.

The Police of Ecuador has several centers of expertise in the areas related to fight against drug trafficking such as: the Regional Antinarcotics Training Center, Regional Center for Canine Training and the Special Mobile Antinarcotics Group. These units seek to ensure a high level of expertise and professionalism of those who are part of the National Antinarcotics Directorate and of the fellow police institutions who turn to them. It is worth mentioning that there is a great contribution by the Armed Forces, the National Secretary of Customs, National Council for Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and other state institutions responsible for control of illicit drugs in order to obtain satisfactory results, widely recognized by various international bodies.

## International drug trafficking. Route in Ecuador



Source: ULCO-Anti-narcotics Police GRAPHIC: AP/EXTRA.

## Illegal crops

The controls for eradication of illegal crops in Ecuador found three kinds of crops (coca, marijuana and poppy). So far this year, a total of 67.2 hectares have been eradicated and 48 operations were deployed, resulting in the eradication of 1,794,000 poppy plants, 85,806 coca plants, and 85,164 marijuana plants.

This means that control operations by Ecuadorian authorities have been effective, providing a preventive function. There are no reasons to assume that coke growing has spread to other areas. Source: 2012 Annual Drug Trafficking Report.

Plantations	Total Plants	Hm
Coca	85.086	16.0
Marijuana	85.152	7.0
Poppy	1.794.900	44.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.965.858</b>	<b>67.2</b>

Source: UICC-DNA

The coca plants eradicated were mainly located in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Sucumbíos, Pastaza, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas and Bolívar.

The marijuana plants eradicated were found in pots or small areas, planted by hand, and generally used in microtrafficking to meet the needs of consumers in the provinces of Guayas, Imbabura, Manabí, Pichincha, Tungurahua, Pastaza, Sucumbíos, and Morona Santiago.

Poppy plants were located mainly in the provinces of Tungurahua, Cotopaxi, Imbabura, Chimborazo, Bolívar, and Cañar.

Compared to the global eradication results for 2011, there has been an increase in the destruction of these plants.

Plantations	2011 Results	2012 Results	Variance	%
Coca	53.030	85.806	32.776	62,81
Poppy	22.100	1.794.900	1.772.800	8.021,72
Marijuana	596	85.152	84.556	14.187,25
<b>Total plants</b>	<b>75.726</b>	<b>1.965.858</b>	<b>1.890.132</b>	<b>2.496,01</b>

Source: UICC-DNA

## Cocaine refining laboratories

In Ecuador there are rudimentary and technologically advanced laboratories for the purification of the base cocaine paste from countries in the region, particularly Peru. During the fight against these structures it has been found that transnational organisations take an active part in them, with the involvement of foreign nationals, particularly Colombian.

In spite of permanent checkpoints set up by Ecuadorian authorities and given the complexity of the problem in pinpointing the incipient coca crops, they have been successful in ensuring limited cocaine production.

Laboratories	2011 Results	2012 Results	Variance	%
Cases	5	4	-1	-20
Arrests	22	13	-9	-41,9
Cocaine hydrochloride	402.264	425.343	23.079	5.74

Source: UICC-DNA

Four cocaine purification and refining laboratories were found and destroyed in 2012 in the provinces of Loja (2 laboratories), Manabí (1 laboratory), and one in Esmeralda.

When comparing the results between 2011 and 2012, it was found that there was a significant decrease in the number of operations (-20%) and arrests (-40.91%). However, the amount of drugs seized in laboratories increased by 5.74%.

## Chemical Substances

Control of precursor chemicals and chemical substances in Ecuador is subject to the restriction of access of these substances to production centres. In addition, it constitutes a significant tool to follow the tracks of drug trafficking organisations, given that it is when legal companies are purchased to market these substances (as in most cases) that these companies become most visible to authorities.

This year, 21 operations against misuse of these substances have been carried out, enabling the seizure of more than 4 tonnes 260 kilograms of solid chemicals and 16,347.23 litres of liquid chemicals, as well as the arrest of 21 citizens all over the country.



## Chemical products usually taken across the borders by drug traffickers

### NORTHERN BORDER

Xylene  
Toluene  
Sulphuric Acid  
Petroleum Ether  
Caustic Soda  
Hydrochloric Acid  
Mek  
Hexane  
Calcium Chloride  
Acetone  
Potassium Permanganate  
Sodium Bicarbonate

### SOUTHERN BORDER

Hydrochloric Acid  
Diesel (Uncontrolled)  
Sodium Bicarbonate  
Sodium Hydroxide  
Hexane  
Calcium Chloride

### CONTROLLED DRUGS

Rivotril  
Rohypnol  
Lipenan  
Winadine

## Controlled substances

- PETROLEUM ETHER
- SULFURIC ACID
- HYDROCHLORIC ACID
- CARBON DISULPHIDE
- AMMONIA
- SODIUM HYDROXIDE
- POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE
- CALCIUM CHLORIDE
- SODIUM SULFATE
- SODIUM CARBONATE
- SODIUM BICARBONATE
- POTASSIUM BICARBONATE
- POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE
- HEXANE
- BENZENE
- TOLUENE
- XYLENE
- DICHLOROMETHANE
- TRICHLOROETHYLENE
- ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL
- ISOBUTYL ALCOHOL
- ETHYL ETHER
- ACETONE
- METHYL ETHYL KETONE
- METHYL ISOBUTYL KETONE
- ALCOHOL DIACETONE
- ACETIC DIOXIDE
- ACETIC ACID

These substances require approval from the National Council for Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP) in the following cases:

- Import, export, marketing, use, and production.
- Import and export authorisation and certificate.
- Submission of monthly consumption, sale and balance reports.
- Verification of import arrivals.
- Guide for substance transport.

## Uncontrolled chemicals seized in laboratories

Uncontrolled Substances	Laboratories					Properties
	Tsunami	Látigo	Campanita	Malvas	Sua	
Lime						Strong alkaliniser
Activated carbon						Removes impurities
Cementine						Strong alkaliniser
Boric acid						Antiseptic
Concrete						Strong alkaliniser
Sodium metabisulfite						Reducer - whitener
Sodium benzoate						Antiseptic salt
Glyconic acid						Additive to regulate PH
Ethanol						Whitener Removes impurities
Carbohydrates						Cuts the drug
Propyl acetate						Refining solvent

Similarly, Ecuador is the main country where subversive organisations engaged in drug trafficking, deal in the illegal sale of chemical substances, supplies and precursors for extraction and transformation of alkaloid owing to the crippled, weak presence of state institutions, gaps along the border and corruption.

## New chemicals in the production process



**Sodium benzoate:** A benzoic acid salt, crystal white in colour, granulated, soluble in water and slightly soluble in alcohol, antiseptic and used in food preservation (prevents bacteria and fungi).

**Ethanol or ethyl alcohol:** substances with antiseptic properties, used to remove natural impurities together with acids and bases that make their precipitation possible.

The Republic of Ecuador has a Chemical Control Unit within the National Police National Directorate for Anti-Narcotics, in charge of finding, obtaining, and processing information on a national level pertaining to misuse of essential chemical substances, precursors and psychotropic substances subject to

control, as well as the location, identification and neutralisation of people and organisations involved in this type of crime (classified in Code 25 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law).

In 2012, this operation had the following results:

- 12 legally based investigations, 9 with prior inquiry, and 3 as tax proceedings.
- 9 company investigations regarding chemical substances subject to control.
- Planning design for the No Borders Operation Plan I.
- Execution of the No Borders operation on a national level, encompassing the various border provinces that resulted in 1,765 vehicles on record and the confiscation of a radio transmitter.

## Drug storage

Transnational illegal drug trafficking organisations whose operation centres are located in Colombia and Peru attempt to avoid national authorities to turn Ecuador into a drug storage centre by means of use of strategic locations, equipped in such a way as to make detection difficult.

Ecuadorian authorities have seized 7 tonnes, 807 kg 209.30 gm of drugs. This was the result of 22 operations which also led to 81 arrests, equal to 24.11%, mostly in the coastal area. The comparison of the results for 2011 and 2012 shows that there was a considerable increase in operations (314.29%), arrests (268.18%), drugs seized (323.77%). 22 operations were carried out, 59 arrests were made, and approximately 5 more tonnes, 964 kg 878.30 gm of drugs were seized than in the previous year

Storage	2011 Results	2012 Results	Variance	%
Cases	7	29	22	321,29
Arrests	22	81	59	268,18
Total Drugs Seized	1.842.331	7.807.209	5.964.878	323,77

Source: UICC-DNA

## Sea Trafficking

Transnational organisations frequently use innovative criminal methods. In the past, airports were used, due to the large migrant flows, as well as the national postal system. Large-scale trafficking has increased, using in particular, air and sea routes, by mean of specially designed crafts. The most frequently used method is the Rip-Off, which consists in misuse of legal delivery of goods.

There is also the misuse of luggage trolleys in international airlines. Hence the importance of strengthening controls in Guayaquil and Quito airports. Sea routes continue to be the most frequently used means for transport of large amounts of drugs to consumer countries. Illegal drug trafficking organisations use the coast of Ecuador as a platform for drug deliveries, which are stored and clandestinely



loaded onto fishing vessels operating in Ecuadorian waters. Departure points have been established along the coast. Speed boats, barges, semi-submersible vessels and fishing boats are used, which are the logistics suppliers of fuel and food, and which transport drugs to larger vessels at high sea and/or international waters headed for the coasts of Mexico, the United States, and even Europe.

Ecuador sea ports constitute the highest-risk points, which can be breached by criminal organisations. The movement of export and import containers departing from and exiting the Guayaquil sea ports is continually increasing. A large number of containers from the various companies or plants in the country reach the port every day. Their cargo is then carried by lorries into the port facilities and is then loaded onto the containers in these facilities, which are ready to be exported. This is one of the most sensitive and hard to control areas, given their size. In addition, the system does not record the exporter's name but rather that of the transport company. This is also the case in the other ports (Manta - Manabía; Puerto Bolívar - El Oro).

As for ships, not only ships carrying containers are used, but also ships with holds into which the cargo is directly loaded, that is, not in containers but directly in the ship's hold. The cargo in these ships is then loaded onto lorries, piled, and then transferred onto the ships - what is known as cargo below deck.

The largest drug trafficking scenario is maritime transport. Due to the use of speed boats and small-scale fishing boats, there is an increase in the use of semi-submersible and submersible high-technology vessels, with the capacity to transport tonnes of illegal drugs, making it difficult to capture people and vessels.

This scenario emphasises transport of certain amounts of alkaloids, which are transported to high sea and/or international waters in the Pacific Ocean by means of speed boats and/or fishing boats departing from different points and ports on the coast of Ecuador for fishing purposes. They are then transferred to larger ships that take these drugs to Mexico, the United States, and other American countries.

Shrimp ships are used to carry out this activity, and rural areas near the coast in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas and El Oro are used as storage centres.

Another method is the use of containers headed mainly to Europe and Africa. Ecuadorian authorities have identified some departure points: the ports of Guayaquil (Guayas), Puerto Bolívar (Machala) and Puerto de Manta (Manabí).

Sea Ports	2011 Results	2012 Results	Variance	%
Cases	29	30	1	3,45
Arrests	35	64	29	82,86
Total Drugs Seized	10.578.632	9.027.130	-1.551.502	-14,67

Source: UICC-DNA

The comparison of the results for 2011 and 2012 shows that there was a 3.45% increase in operations in sea ports.

National control services detected vessels that were used to transport drug containers and vessels were intercepted during transfer of illegal drugs at high sea.

## Air Trafficking



As regards drug trafficking by air, it takes place mainly by means of human couriers and/or mules (as they are known in other South American countries), who transport concealed drugs (ingested, double-bottom suitcases, taped to the body) and systematic package deliveries through the national postal and courier companies headed for international markets.

ries through the national postal and courier companies headed for international markets.

In 2012, intelligence work and the action of the Public Prosecutor enabled the Ecuadorian National Police to discover a trend pertaining to use of aircrafts, particularly Mexican, that transfer alkaloids to Central America by means of unscheduled landings on the coast, as well as occasionally delivery of drug trafficking money. This was prevented by the authorities at the time.

With execution of the police operation known as “DANUBIO AZUL” (“BLUE DANUBE”) on 20 November 2012 in the provinces of Guayas (Guayaquil), Santa Elena, and Los Ríos, a criminal drug trafficking organisation which was dismantled which made drug deliveries from clandestine landing strips in strategic locations so as not to be detected by control authorities. More than 576 kg 622 gm of cocaine were seized and 8 Ecuadorian citizens were arrested, including a minor, as they unloaded large amount of alkaloids from a van and transferred it to a SENECA II aeroplane, HC-BQF, whose final destination was Honduras.

## Human couriers

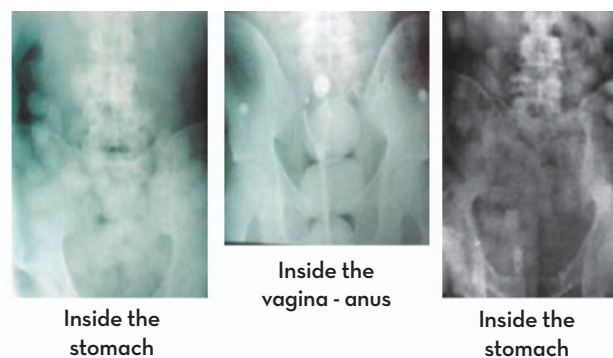
Human couriers and/or mules work as networks of foreign and national citizens. Alkaloids are introduced into the country by recruiting nationals and foreigners who are met or contacted in the destination countries, paying for their travel costs - bureaucracy, travel tickets and money. In some cases, these criminal networks control deliveries by means of people linked to the criminal organisation who frequently travel these routes.

These are some of the modes of concealment of the drugs transported by means of couriers or mules:

### Ingested

The drug takes the form of capsules with a length of no more than 3 cm and a weight of between 7 and 10 gm, covered in latex (surgery gloves) and a wax layer to facilitate ingestion. In most cases, criminal ingest between 70 and 100 capsules, depending on their size and shape.

This way of transporting the drug can be lethal, depending on the time it stays inside the body: after some time, the gastric juices can cause these capsules to break, leading to an overdose and the person's death.



X-rays: The foreign objects can be clearly seen inside the stomach, vagina, and anus. The size of the capsules inserted can even be calculated in the central picture.

### Taped

In some cases, the person hides the drug by taping it to his or her body, in the genitals, on the limbs, or elsewhere on the body, using adhesive tape and girdles.



## Hidden in clothes

Drugs are frequently hidden in jackets, shoe soles, shirts and trousers. A new system has also been created: impregnating different pieces of clothes with the illegal drugs after a drying process that removes its smell and colour, making it hard to detect.



## Hidden in luggage

The most frequent method is to hide the drug in luggage compartments, in a double bottom and in the metal structure. In some cases drugs have been found hidden in toiletries, craftwork, containers, etc.



## Courier agencies

Systematic delivery of packages via the national postal and courier agencies is the method which leads to most Police interventions. Obviously, the amounts of hidden drugs are minimal, but due to the frequency of delivery they amount to a significant amount overall. In addition, proliferation of courier agencies in all of Ecuador has been made use of by criminal networks. Given this phenomenon, the anti-drugs police service operates in coordination with the National Post Office to reduce risk levels given the drug delivery trend. Illegal drug trafficking organisations have used various strategies to transport illegal drugs through the country or send it abroad. The ways of concealing drugs found by the post and/or courier services include the following:

### *Double bottom*

The most frequent method consists in hiding the drug in the double bottom of toiletries, craftwork, containers, books, magazines, cardboard, shoes, suitcases, and cosmetics, among others.



### *Impregnated*

Various items, mainly clothes, towels, baby clothes, blankets, leather items, wallets, paper, book pages, cards, cardboard sheets and foam, among others, are impregnated with cocaine hydrochloride, which is then returned to its usual state after a chemical process for distribution and marketing to the final recipients.



### *Liquid or Cocaine Dissolved in a Solution*

This is hidden in drinks, shampoos, creams, and others. The resourcefulness of drug traffickers in mixing cocaine with red palm oil, etc. should be noted.



## Electronic Devices

Another method found by anti-drug units is use of electronic devices such as video recorders, voltage regulators, printers, freezers, personal computers, electronic agendas, toys, etc.



Delivery areas and exit points using human couriers and courier agencies have been located in Masi-cal Antonio José de Sucre (Quito) and José Joaquín de Olmedo (Guayaquil) international airports. Criminals, who have different nationalities in the case of "mules" and "postal packages", are usually sent to European, African and Asian countries.

Check points in international airports made it possible to arrest people who transported drugs in flights to the USA (Atlanta), Colombia (Bogotá), Venezuela (Caracas), Panamá, Guatemala (San José), Peru (Lima), Chile (Santiago), Argentina (Buenos Aires), Brazil (São Paulo), the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Spain (Madrid, Barcelona), Italy (Milan, Rome) and Belgium.

The most frequent airlines for drug transport are: Aircomet, Avianca, Copa, Delta, Iberia, KLM, Lacs, Lan, Taca and Continental. The main destinations are: Ivory Coast (Abidjan), South Africa (Johannesburg, Lusaka), Nigeria (Lagos), Guinea, Cameroon, Ghana (Accra), Senegal (Dakar), Benin (Cotonou), Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique (Maputo), Liberia (Monrovia), Denmark (Copenhagen), Greece (Athens), Turkey (Istanbul), Germany (Bremen), the Netherlands (Amsterdam, Eindhoven, Rotterdam), Spain (Madrid, Barcelona, Lanzarote, Málaga, Murcia, Valencia, Catalonia, Alicante, Bilbao, Biscay), Malta, Italy (Milan, Rome, Genoa, Sardinia), Poland (Warsaw), Belgium (Brussels), Portugal (Lisbon), England (London, Manchester, Lincolnshire), France (Lyon), Sweden, Albany (Tirana) and Scotland (Edinburgh).

## Land Trafficking

Tourism traffic is mainly used: small vehicles for transport of goods and international transport crossing the international bridges link Ecuador border towns. These vehicles are used to introduce small amounts of illegal drug hidden in the double bottom of the vehicles in "hiding places", known as "Caletas": depending upon the criminals' ability and cleverness, they can be placed anywhere in the vehicle and can transport approximately 30 kg.



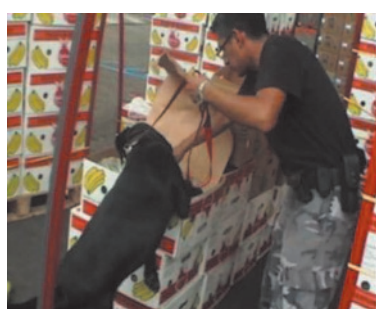
Lorries are used to transport goods from Southern Colombia and Northern Peru, introducing large amounts of drugs which are then transported to the clandestine storage areas found in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Los Ríos,

Guayas, and El Oro, which are near sea ports. Beaches are used to hide the drugs, which is distributed in plastic tanks or jute sacks and buried in the sand, using companies or properties near the beach to subsequently send it, usually by sea, to consumer countries.

## Main trafficking transport methods

### Drug Contamination in Containers

Ecuador's economic productivity has led to export of such products as bananas, fruit pulp, fish, shrimp, tuna and iron tubes, among others. This mechanism can be easily manipulated by export companies, customs agents and transport companies to hide the illegal drugs.



### Rip off

This is the use of external freezer containers where the drug is placed. Sometimes suitcases or packages containing the illegal substance are placed inside the container. To do so, the security seals are broken or forced and are then copied and replaced. Drug trafficking organisations choose renowned companies to carry out this illegal activity.

Support networks for criminal organisations have been found in Ecuador which insert their cells to coordinate support to illegal drug trafficking. This year, police investigation under the supervision of the Public Prosecutor, and in other cases through exchange of information with our counterparts in other countries, established the presence of transnational crime. Operation Horizonte (Horizon), executed in March 2012, led to the arrest of the Colombian citizen, Juan Carlos Calle Serna, aka Comba, a member of the Los Rastrojos gang, which has criminal alliances with FARC-EP, whose main activities are illegal drug trafficking, hired killings and collection agencies, mainly in Colombia and spreading into



Ecuador. Another operation worth mentioning is Operation JAQUE MATE (CHECKMATE), which neutralised an organisation operating in the cities of Guayaquil, Quito, and Santo Domingo which was in charge of drug delivery from the main ports of the city of Guayaquil to international markets in Europe and the United States. In this case, several properties which had been identified as meeting places, rest stops, and storage centres were searched. 115.81 kg of cocaine were seized, and nine Ecuadorian citizens and two Colombian citizens were arrested. It should be pointed out that the investigations extended to Belgium and the Netherlands, where Operation Expreso Verde (Green Express) was carried out, leading to the seizure of more than 2 tonnes 353 kg of cocaine, as well as Operation 8K, where 8 tonnes of cocaine, transported in containers leaving Ecuador, were seized. In addition, joint operations with Poland and the Ukraine have been carried out, leading to the seizure of considerable drug amounts and the arrest of nationals and foreigners in these countries as well as in Ecuador.

In 2012, Operations Centuri3n (Centurion) and Danubio Azul (Blue Danube) were carried out, which led to the seizure of unauthorised aircrafts suitable for drug transport to Central America. Given the complexity of transnational crime, the Ecuadorian National Police, on the basis of the International Conventions signed by the Republic of Ecuador and following the constitutional regulations in force, has carried out highly specialised anti-narcotics operations in coordination with police forces in other states. These results are a reflection of the professionalism of the intelligence operations, which made it possible to acquire knowledge about drug traffickers' activities to locate, neutralise, and dismantle these criminal organisations.

## Links between Drug Trafficking and Europe - Africa

Heroin and cocaine trafficking routes have changed over time, mainly as a reaction against prohibition efforts, competition between agents, and fluctuations in demand.

Drug trafficking routes have been identified which are used by criminals to access international markets and redistribute the illegal substance in consumption markets.

## **From production to export (routes for drug placement on the Atlantic Coast)**

The Atlantic border is crucial for all countries that have direct access to the Atlantic. Ecuador is used as the departure point and a transit area for drug deliveries to countries in that geographical area. Due to its location in the middle of cocaine production circuits in neighbouring countries, Ecuador has been affected by the crime chain, whose methods are most frequently used for drug transport to countries in the Americas, Europe and Africa which are located on the Atlantic Coast, such as Canada, the USA, México, Honduras, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, Panama, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina; Spain, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, France, the Netherlands and Britain; Senegal, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea Bissau, Benin, Cameroon and South Africa.

Under the cover of fishing, drugs are transferred to larger ships that take them to Central America, Mexico and the United States. Drugs are also introduced into containers of legal exports seeking to leave the ports of Guayaquil (Guayas), Bolívar (El Oro), and Manta (Manabí), with stopovers in Colombia (Cartagena), Panama (Balboa), Germany (Munster), Spain (Algeciras) and the Netherlands (Rotterdam). In the operations and investigations performed, several unloading points in Africa and Europe were found, such as: Ghana (Thema), South Africa (Bénin), Spain (Sagunto, Algeciras, Alicante, Marín), Belgium (Antwerp), Germany (Hamburg, Munster, Bremerhaven), the Netherlands (Rotterdam) and Poland. 2010 World Report on Drugs 2012\_United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

## **Statistics on the seizure of drugs headed to Europe - Africa**

The figures for drug seizures in Ecuador in 2011 with international destinations made it possible to establish the most frequent destinations. Most of the drugs were sent to Europe, in particular to Spain, followed by Belgium and the Netherlands, while the African country to which most drugs are delivered is South Africa.

The figures for 2012 drug seizures with international destinations display the same trend of European deliveries, with greater emphasis on Belgium, followed by Spain and the Netherlands. As regards Africa, South Africa continues to be the main destination for drug delivery.

## **The status of criminal organisations**

For many years now, illegal cocaine trafficking to Western Europe is run by Colombian criminal groups. These include several criminal groups from Caribbean countries, including Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. Since 2005, various West African criminal groups, often headed by Nigerians, are firmly rooted in the cocaine market in many countries in Western Europe. Some Nigerian groups have also started to export cocaine from Brazil, particularly from São Paulo, to destinations in Africa and Europe. Most of these groups have no hierarchical structure, but rather operate as independent entities within autonomous networks.

2011		
Africa	Hydrochloride	Heroin
Cameroon	530,00	
Ghana	703,00	
Guinea	805,00	
Liberia	20,00	
Nigeria	1.495,00	
Congo	1.974,00	
South Africa	416.135,50	
Uganda	528,00	
Zimbabwe	278,00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>422.468,50</b>	<b>0,00</b>

Europe	Hydrochloride	Heroin
Albania	2.396,00	
Germany	22.034,00	
Belgium	1.096.181,00	
Czech Rep.	3.180,00	
Spain	4.312.978,63	1.342,00
France	6.337,00	
Greece	590,00	
The Netherland	418.477,47	
Hungary	2.087,26	
Ireland	5.080,00	
Italy	29.456,00	
Norway	1.560,00	
Portugal	1.390,00	
United Kingdom	94.847,35	
Romania	312,00	
Russia	82.761,00	
Switzerland	16.134,00	
Turkey	19.007,00	
Ukraine	765,00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.115.573,71</b>	<b>1.342,00</b>

2012		
Africa	Hydrochloride	Heroin
Africa	887,00	
Cameroon	250,00	
Egypt	2.695,00	
Ghana	596,00	
Guinea	1.079,00	
Liberia	116,00	
Namibia	59,00	
Nigeria	4.064,20	
South Africa	8.302,00	
Tanzania	41,00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.089,20</b>	<b>0,00</b>

Europe	Hydrochloride	Heroin
Europe	156.765,00	
Germany	250,00	
Belgium	14.290.213,60	
Denmark	15.027,00	
Spain	816.879,78	5.623,00
Estonia		103,00
France	116.897,00	
Greece	109,30	
The Netherland	304.947,20	1.220,00
Hungary	835,50	
United Kingdom	101.096,30	
Ireland	4.260,50	
Israel	2.249,80	
Italy	41.138,90	
Macedonia	1.035,00	
Poland	28.690,00	
Portugal	290,00	
Switzerland	535,00	
Turkey	22.547,00	
Ukraine	34.227,00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.937.993,88</b>	<b>6.946,00</b>

On the basis of the operations carried out, the professionalism and experience of the Ecuadorian National Police as regards illegal drug trafficking, it can be established that it no independent and structured cartels and criminal organisations operate in the illegal drug trafficking chain on a transnational level: that is to say, no Ecuadorian criminal organisation with organisational command levels has been identified. However, investigations into drug trafficking made it possible to identify, neutralise, and dismantle support networks to Colombian, Peruvian, Nigerian, Mexican, and other transnational organised crime which insert collaborators to coordinate support levels in the drug trafficking chain (storage, refining, concealment, transport, and marketing).

## **Other aspects of interest**

### **Reduction efforts**

Approximately 110 metric tonnes of cocaine from Colombia and Peru cross Ecuador every year by air, land, and sea. However, heroin also coming from Colombia follows the same trafficking routes. Even though Ecuador is not a main drug producer, it is a significant storage area, a fact used by large transnational criminal networks, such as the Nigerian mafia, the Chinese triads, the Russian mafia, Mexican cartels, and the South bloc of FARC-EP, which exchange drugs for weapons.

Since 2012, there has been an increase in the number of operations against drug trafficking supported by the United States government. Due to the 2009 political crisis, the amount of cocaine seized reached 40 metric tonnes, and not only trafficking but also the production of drugs in laboratories seem to be on the rise since 2012. In 2012, the Ecuadorian authorities seized 185 kg of heroin, as opposed to the 152 kg seized in 2011. Likewise, approximately 10,000 metric tonnes of marijuana were seized. Ecuador joined the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in September 2012. This made it possible for the Ecuadorian Navy to carry out maritime operations with the support of the United States which led to the seizure of semi-submersible vessels and Go Fast boats.

### **Efforts regarding Consumption Policies**

The Ecuadorian Constitution regulates drug consumption by means of public health policy, which provides 25 health centres for drug addicts and 5 specialised hospitals. Despite the great advance in health policy regarding drug consumption and abuse, the policy lost the ground it gained given the increase in consumption due to the lack of financial resources to fund the programme.

### **Anti-narcotics Operations in 2012**

The Ecuadorian National Police, through the Anti-Narcotics National Directorate, carries out comprehensive, selective actions to neutralise and reduce illegal drug trafficking. These actions led to the execution of 5,039 anti-narcotics operations on the national level and the seizure of more than 42 tonnes 936 kg 530.66 gm of drugs, with cocaine hydrochloride amounting to 72.64% of the total, namely 31 tonnes 146.82 kg. Marijuana amounted to 25.08% at 10 tonnes

767.53 kg, base cocaine paste amounted to 1.94% at 833.40 kg, and heroin amounted to 0.44% at 188.60 kg.

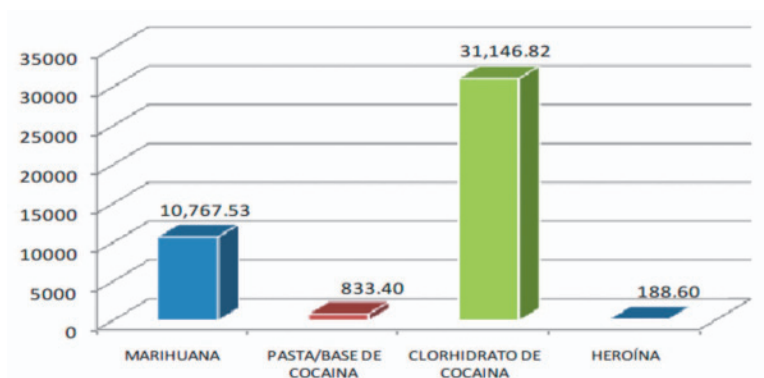
Of the total drug seized, 73% was for international trafficking and 27% for local trafficking and/or microtrafficking, that is to say, almost three quarters of the drug seized for supply and distribution in consumer countries, including the United States and Europe, among others.

### Statistics on drugs seized by destination country

[Table sees following page]

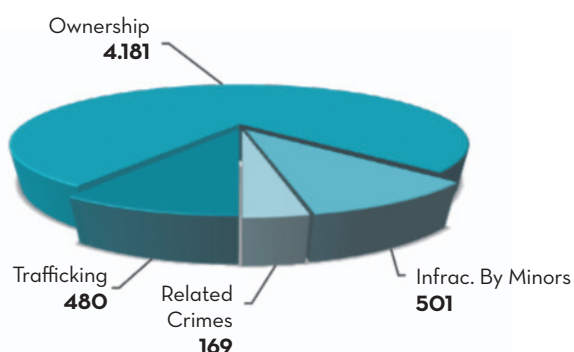
In 2012, the destination of the drugs seized was firstly Belgium with 63.48% of the total, followed by Canada at 7.60% followed by the United States at 5.39%, Spain at 3.65%, Honduras at 2.56%, Mexico at 1.52%, the Netherlands at 1.36%, and other countries amounting to 14.44%.

Source: UICC-DNA



Destination country	Type of drug (Measured in Grammes)				
	Cocaine hydrochloride	Cocaine paste / basic	Heroin	Marijuana	Total drug
Belgium	14.290.213,60				14.290.213,60
Canadá	1.705.910,00		5.558,00		1.711.468,00
USA	1.146.969,70		65.661,00		1.212.630,70
Spain	816.579,78	300,00	5.623,00		822.502,78
Honduras	576.622,00				576.622,00
Mexico	341.193,60				341.193,60
The Netherlands	304.947,20		1.220,00		306.167,20
Guatemala	208.730,00				208.730,00
Europe	156.765,00				156.765,00
France	116.897,00				116.897,00
United Kingdom	101.096,30				101.096,30
Italy	41.138,90				41.138,90
Ukraine	34.227,00				34.227,00
Poland	28.690,00				28.690,00
Dominican Republic	4.430,00		26.827,94		31.257,94
Turkey	22.547,00				22.547,00
Chile	21.750,00			10,00	21.760,00
Saudi Arabia	20.970,00				20.970,00
Australia	19.658,20				19.658,20
Denmark	15.027,00				15.027,00
Panama	14.464,00				14.464,00
Thailand	8.798,50				8.798,50
Peru	8.608,00				8.608,00
South Africa	8.302,00				8.302,00
China	7.837,40		200,00		8.037,40
Malaysia	6.395,00				6.395,00
Brazil	5.873,00				5.873,00
Argentina	5.858,50				5.858,50
Ireland	4.290,50				4.290,50
Nigeria	4.064,20				4.064,20
Egypt	2.695,00				2.695,00
Israel	2.248,80				2.248,80
Costa Rica	1.475,00				1.475,00
Cuba	1.275,00				1.275,00
Guinea	1.079,00				1.079,00
Macedonia	1.035,00				1.035,00
Africa	887,00				887,00
Hungary	835,50				835,50
Ghana	596,00				596,00
Switzerland	535,00				535,00
Pakistan	350,00				350,00
Portugal	290,00				290,00
Germany	250,00				250,00
Cameroon	250,00				250,00
Hong Kong	236,00				236,00
Czech Rep.	140,00				140,00
Liberia	116,00				116,00
India	111,00				111,00
Greece	109,30				109,30
Estonia			103,00		103,00
Namibia	59,00				59,00
Norway	59,00				59,00
Tanzania	41,00				41,00
Not Determined	2.273.431,12	2.089,00	65.844,49		2.341.364,61
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.336.957,10</b>	<b>2.389,00</b>	<b>171.037,43</b>	<b>10,00</b>	<b>22.510.393,53</b>

## Arrests for Illegal Drug Trafficking



In police actions against Illegal Drug Trafficking, 4,830 adults and 501 minors were arrested for illegal activities related to classified crimes established in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, amounting to a total of 5,331 arrests.

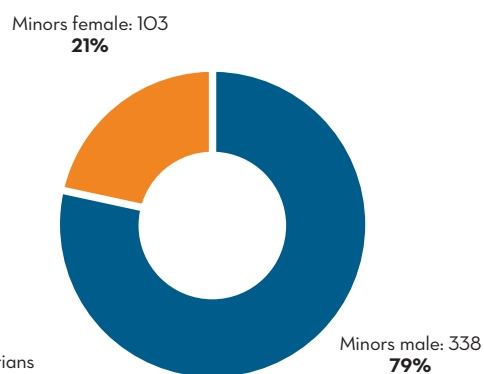
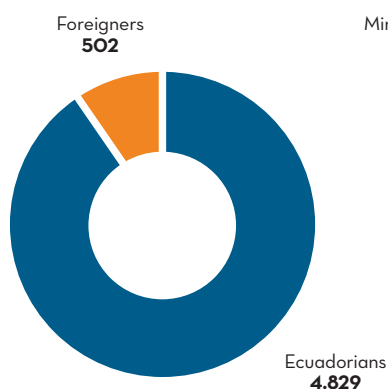
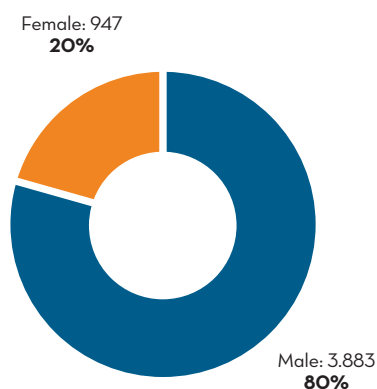
While 4,181 arrests were made for drug possession and/or microtrafficking, 501 minors were arrested; 480 arrests were made for illegal drug trafficking on an international level, and 160 arrests were

made for illegal activities related to classified crimes established in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

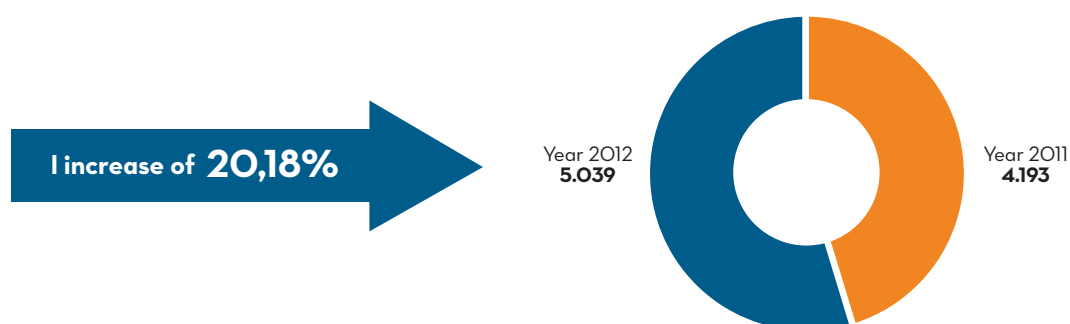
91% of the arrested offenders in Ecuador in 2012 were Ecuadorian citizens whereas 9% were foreign citizens, namely:

- 4,829 Ecuadorians
  - 337 Colombians
  - 30 Spaniards
  - 18 Peruvians
  - 13 Dominicans
  - 11 Guatemalans
  - 9 Cubans
  - 7 US citizens
  - 7 Mexicans
  - 6 Italians
  - 6 Romanians
  - 5 Dutch
  - 5 Thai
  - 4 Nigerians
- 3 Israelis
  - 3 Poles
  - 3 Portuguese
  - 3 Turks
  - 2 Azerbaijanis
  - 2 Belgians
  - 2 Bulgarians
  - 2 Lebanese
  - 2 Lithuanians
  - 2 Monaco citizens
  - 2 South Africans
  - 2 Ukrainians
  - 2 Venezuelans
- 1 Argentinean
  - 1 Brazilian
  - 1 Canadian
  - 1 Chilean
  - 1 Chinese
  - 1 Costa Rican
  - 1 Croatian
  - 1 British citizen
  - 1 Honduras citizen
  - 1 Latvian
  - 1 Russian
  - 1 Swiss
  - 1 Vietnamese
  - 1 Albanian

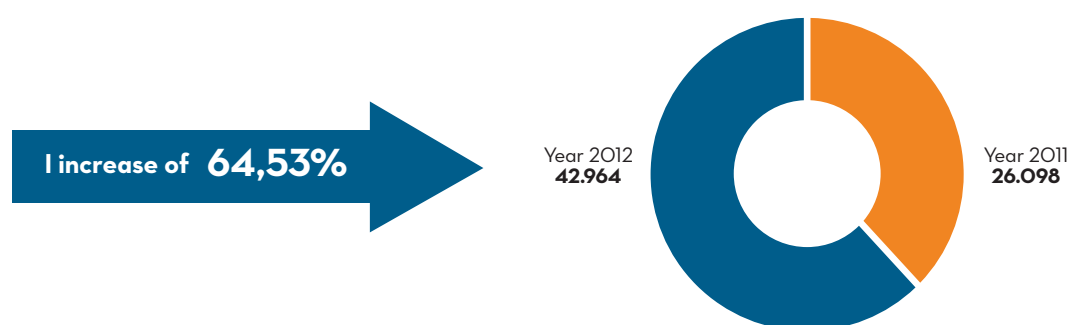
## Citizens Arrested



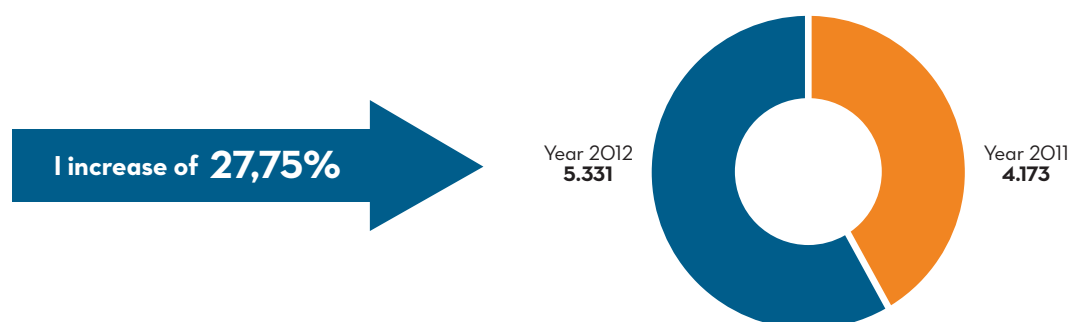
## Comparison between drug seized in 2011 and 2012



In the operations carried out in 2012, there was a significant 20.18% increase of operations against classified crimes established in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Money Laundering Suppression Act, the Criminal Code, and others. That is to say, 846 operations more than in 2011 took place.



The drugs seized in 2012 increased by 64.53% with respect to 2011, which represents the seizure of 16 tonnes 84 kg more than what was seized in 2011.



As for arrested drug traffickers, a comparative analysis found that a significant 27.75% increase took place in 2012, with the arrest of 1,158 people more than in 2011.





## THE DRUG TRAFFICKING SITUATION

# Panama



# The Drug Trafficking Situation in Panama

## Introduction

Panama is clearly a transit point for global commercial activity. It is characterised by its accessibility to maritime passageways from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean and vice versa. On this basis, drug trafficking has currently evolved towards various methods, actions, and dynamics to achieve its main goal.

Drug trafficking routes go from South America to North America and Europe, progressively crossing Panama. Drug trafficking is in charge of local criminal gangs allied with the large criminal organisations. Commercial sea ports are usually used for delivery and transport of illegal substances, as well as inter-American drug deliveries and drug trafficking by postal and package delivery.

It can be deduced that drug trafficking in Panama is linked to criminal violence (homicide, kidnapping, extortion, theft, etc.) due to the actions launched by organised crime. One of the main actions derived from drug trafficking is money laundering, which is a latent threat to financial activity, as it is an open market for large criminal organisations. In this way, they acquire goods and assets, constitute public limited companies using unlawfully obtained money, which they later legally introduce into the commercial flow.

## Trafficking

Illegal drug trafficking from Panama as a transit area towards Europe and Africa is carried out by sea through the large container ports, as was previously described. Drug is also trafficked by air through Tocumen International Airport and courier deliveries in their various forms.



## Main routes

Because Panama has a geostrategic position, with access to the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Caribbean, drug traffickers make use of the various types of transport of goods to send drug containers all over the world. It should be borne in mind that Panama has become one of the main financial centres in the region, which makes it easier for criminal organisations to settle there permanently.

Its proximity to Colombia, a cocaine producing country, facilitates the entry of drugs, particularly via “go fast” using sailboats and light aircrafts. The drugs that enter the country then leave for other parts of the world.

## Sea Trafficking

1. Colombia, Panama, final destination - Belgium.
2. Colombia, Panama, final destination - the Netherlands.
3. Colombia, Panama, Belgium, final destination - India.
4. Chile, Panama, final destination - Belgium.
5. Ecuador, Panama, final destination - Belgium.
6. Costa Rica, Panama, final destination - Belgium.
7. Colombia, Panama, final destination - Italy.

## Speed boat routes from Colombia to Panama through the Atlantic Ocean:

Illegal drugs from Colombia cross the Urabá Gulf through Puerto Obaldía, making use of the coasts and waters of the Guna Yala district. They then cross the coasts of Colón Province (Costa Arriba and Costa Abajo), down the coastline of Veraguas Province (Mosquito Gulf) towards Bocas del Toro Province. Supply points and logistics support have been identified along this route, as shown below:



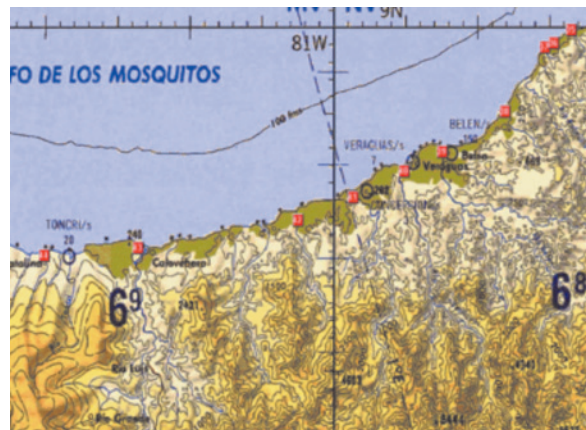
Guna Yala District



Colón coastline (Costa Arriba)



Bocas del Toro Province coastline



Veraguas Province coastline

## Speed boat routes from Colombia to Panama through the Pacific Ocean:

Another route used is that of the municipality of Juradó-Chocó, in Colombia, towards the Isthmus on the Darien coastline. This route crosses international waters and then enters the Las Perlas archipelago, sailing along the coastline of the Western Sector of the capital. The route goes on to Azuero Peninsula, the coastline of Veraguas Provinces, and the coastline of Chiriquí Province.

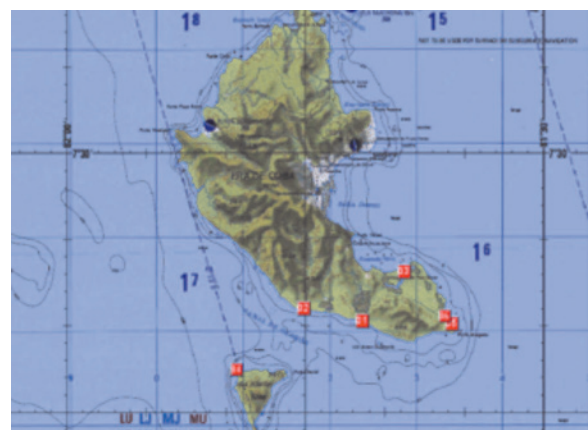
Transport of large amounts of illegal substances is carried out in coordination: for example, speed boats leave Urabá Gulf in Colombia (Atlantic Sector) and reach the coast of Colón Province, on the banks of the Indio River and enter into the Gobeia community. They are disembarked and taken upriver on small vessels until they land (La Encantada and Encantadita sectors). From there they are transported by horse or using pack animals until they reach a track where they are transported via four-wheel drive vehicles and subsequently transferred into vehicles with double bottoms or other means of concealment towards the Inter-American Highway (International Road) to cross the border between Panama and Costa Rica.



East Sector of Panama City (Chepo)



Azuero Peninsula



Isla Coiba

## Air Trafficking

### Routes identified:

1. Nicaragua, Panama, final destination Spain (Madrid).
2. Venezuela, Panama, final destination Spain (Madrid).
3. Panama, the Netherlands, final destination Poland.
4. Panama, Spain, final destination Latvia.
5. Panama, Spain, final destination Lithuania.
6. Ecuador, Panama, final destination Spain.
7. Panama, Nassau (Caribbean island), final destination Spain.

Due to a large extent to the effort made by the Panama government on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts as regards anti-drug trafficking operations, the main drug trafficking organisations have ceased to use the coasts of Panama to offload drugs. In late 2009, 84% of drugs leaving Colombia crossed Panama before being sent to international markets. This had changed by 2010, with Honduras becoming one of the main countries for transit of these cargoes.

In 2011 approximately nine hundred and seventy (970) tonnes of drugs were transported in Panama via these routes, amounting to 67% of the illegal substances in the world, as can be seen in the following table. Of this total, 38% was sent to the USA, 17% to Europe, and 16% to the Caribbean.

Routes	Tonnes	Percentage
México - Centro América - Caribbean	970	67%
Europe	247	17%
Caribbean	232	16%

Source: Diario La Prensa, Panamá

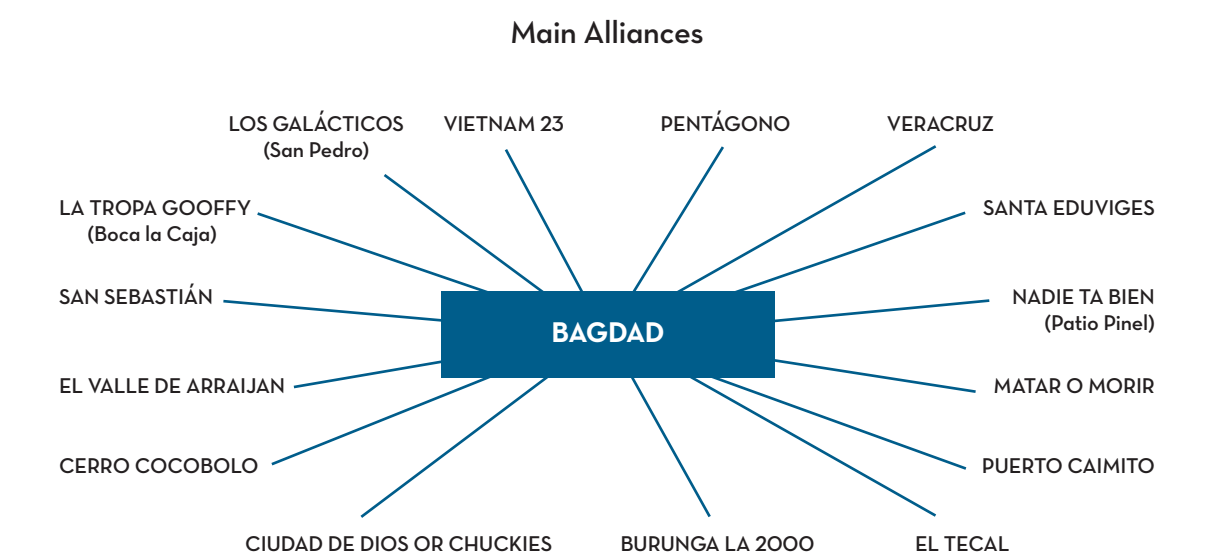
## Main Drug Trafficking Alliances in Panama

Due to its geographical location, the Republic of Panama is the ideal location for negotiations and transport by drug trafficking organisations. Due to the controls by Panama security organisations (neutralisation of drug custody areas, seizures, search of drug delivery and reception areas and storage centres, especially on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of Panama), illegal armed groups (FARC-BACRIM), regarded as the main parties leading to the introduction of drugs into Panama, have formed alliances with “Panama creoles” criminal gangs, whose role is to take custody of the drugs and transport them from Colombia to strategic locations. This Panama security crackdown has made them seek other alternatives.

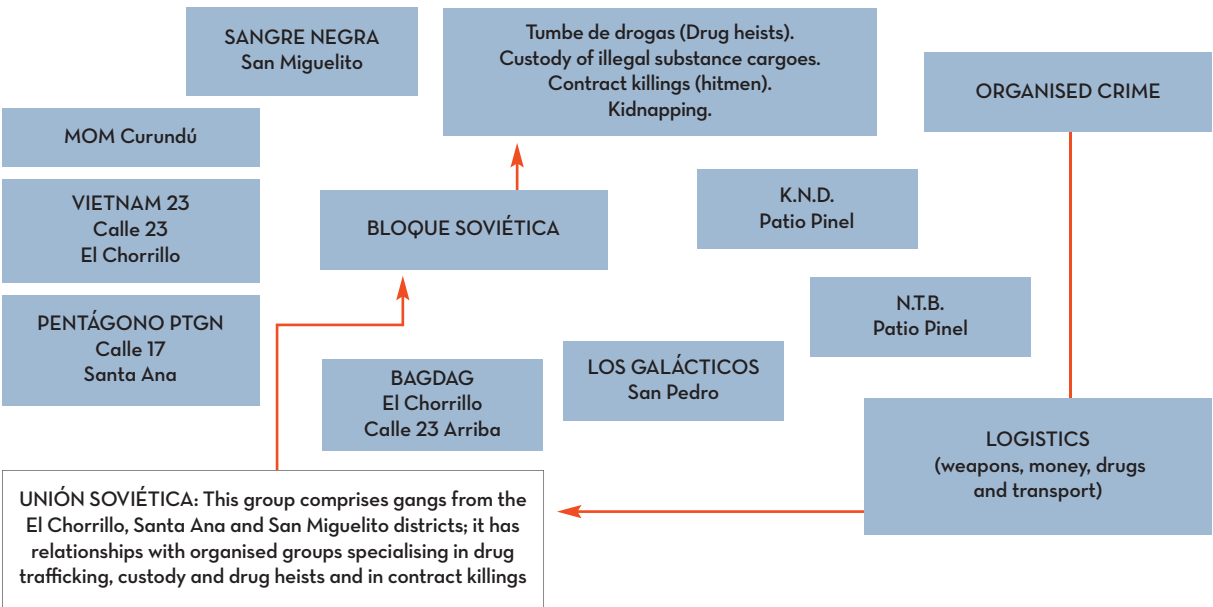
These Creole criminal gangs have also given rise to what is known as “tumble de drogas” (“drug heist”) in urban and rural areas of Panama to finance their activity. This consists in stealing drug cargoes

from Colombian organisations, generating feuds and breaking-off relationships, accompanied by violence, murders in settling scores and contract killings, among others, which has made Colombian drug traffickers send their own men to prevent theft by Panama nationals.

New alliances have been established with organisations that have their own routes, logistics and transport, which generate criminal violence in Panama. Some elements of these criminal structures have been found carrying out drug trafficking activities in the capital.



Source: Information supplied by Antipandillas

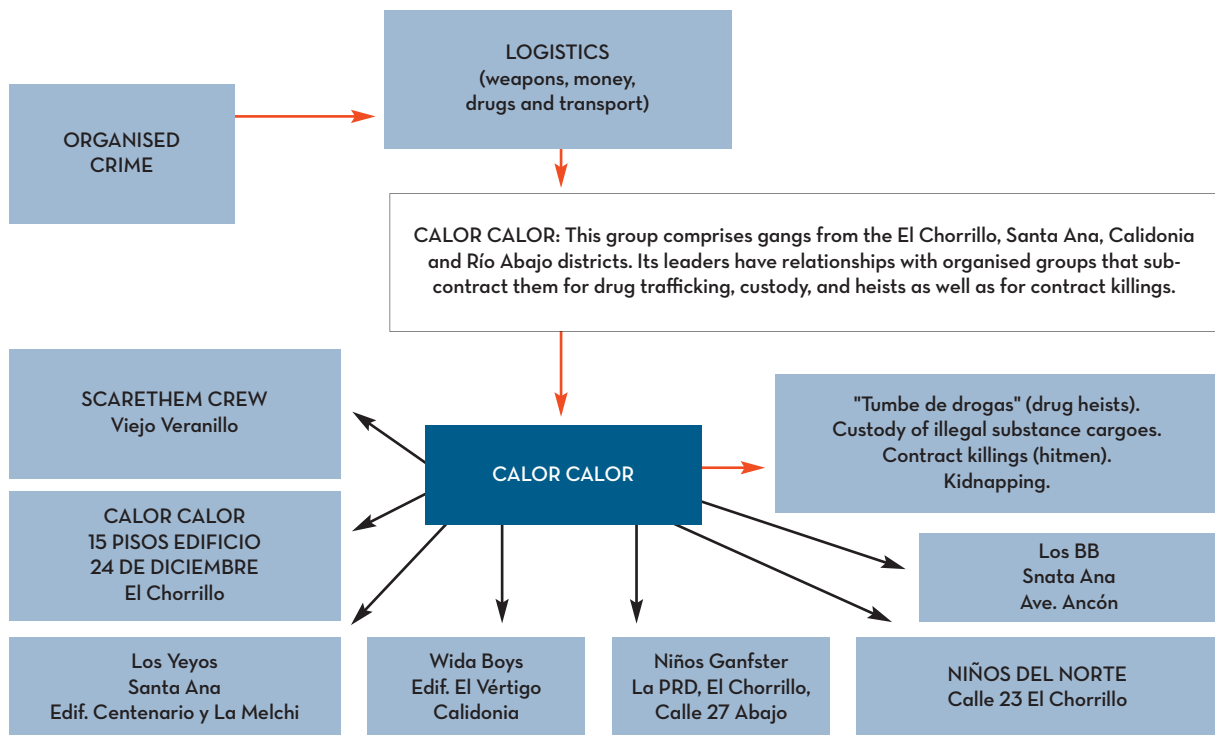


Source: Information supplied by Antipandillas  
Analysis and Intelligence Section / Information for police purposes only.

## Alliances Between The Most Active Gangs



Source: Information supplied by Antipandillas



Source: Information supplied by Antipandillas.

Analysis and Intelligence Section / Information for police purposes only.

Likewise, Mexican cartels have entered Panama, extending their territory – in particular the “Beltrán Leyva” cartel, specialising in human trafficking and money laundering. Panama nationals have also entered into alliances with Venezuelan organisations specialising in drug trafficking and purchase of goods and assets derived from this illegal activity. Panama continues to be an appealing country for money laundering given the high volume of bank transactions, many of which are not as controlled as in other countries.

A possible future trend for transnational drug trafficking would be the installation of laboratories for the production of cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride in Panama, as this would involve fewer costs and fewer risks for these organisations in terms of transport, storage centres and trafficking routes with regards to authorities who monitor and control their activities. Drug trafficking proceeds would also enter legal trade, acquiring greater financial power which would allow them to bribe State institutions, civil servants and political parties, among others. This would cause entities in charge of regulating and controlling this phenomenon to have to be prepared to confront this situation on a daily basis in their country.

## National and foreign citizen arrests

### Anti-drug operations in Panama in 2012

Nationality	Amount
Central America and Caribbean	
Panamá	1.152
Costa Rica	7
Guatemala	2
Honduras	1
Nicaragua	1
Bahamas	1
Dominican Rep.	1
Jamaica	1
Cuba	1

Nationality	Amount
South America	
Colombia	79
Venezuela	4
North America	
México	5
United States	3
Canada	1
Asia	
Palestine	7
Jordan	6

Nationality	Amount
Europe and Africa	
Spain	2
Poland	1
Lithuania	1
Latvia	1
Greece	1
Nigeria	1

These organisations use various drug concealment methods in their everyday operation, circumventing control authorities. These methods have not changed much and are almost always the same ones.



Use of vehicles



Floor of vehicles



Double-bottom suitcase (sheets)



Money capsules



Latex capsules containing dissolved cocaine solution



Modified container structures



Folders or Briefcase with a double bottom covered with carbon paper filling with cocaine



Chocolate stuffed with cocaine



Cocaine impregnated clothes, blankets and sheets



Use of coastal areas (drug buried in tanks and sacks)





## THE DRUG TRAFFICKING SITUATION

# Peru



# The Drug Trafficking Situation in Peru

## Introduction



Peru is located in the tropical area of South America between the Equator and the Capricorn Tropic. It has a surface area of 1,285,215 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it the twentieth largest country in size on Earth and the third in South America. It borders on Ecuador and Colombia to the North, on Brazil to the East, on Bolivia to the Southeast, on Chile to the South and on the Pacific Ocean to the West. It has a vast environmental variety due to its geographical conditions, which provide a great diversity of natural resources. The Constitution establishes that Peruvian national waters extend to 200 nautical miles, which claim has been upheld by Peru with regard to the United Nations Convention the Law of the Sea.

The problem of illegal drug trafficking has particular connotations for Peru, due to the effects for the country of illegal production activities of the coca leaf and production processes for cocaine base paste and cocaine hydrochloride. In addition, there is a link between drug trafficking and terrorism which constitutes a serious threat to national security.

The Peruvian government, aware of this fact, has given maximum priority to this issue and declared war against drug trafficking and other related activities as part of a comprehensive strategy, but the resources to fight criminal activity are insufficient, particularly as crops and production are located far from urban centres.

## Crops and Production

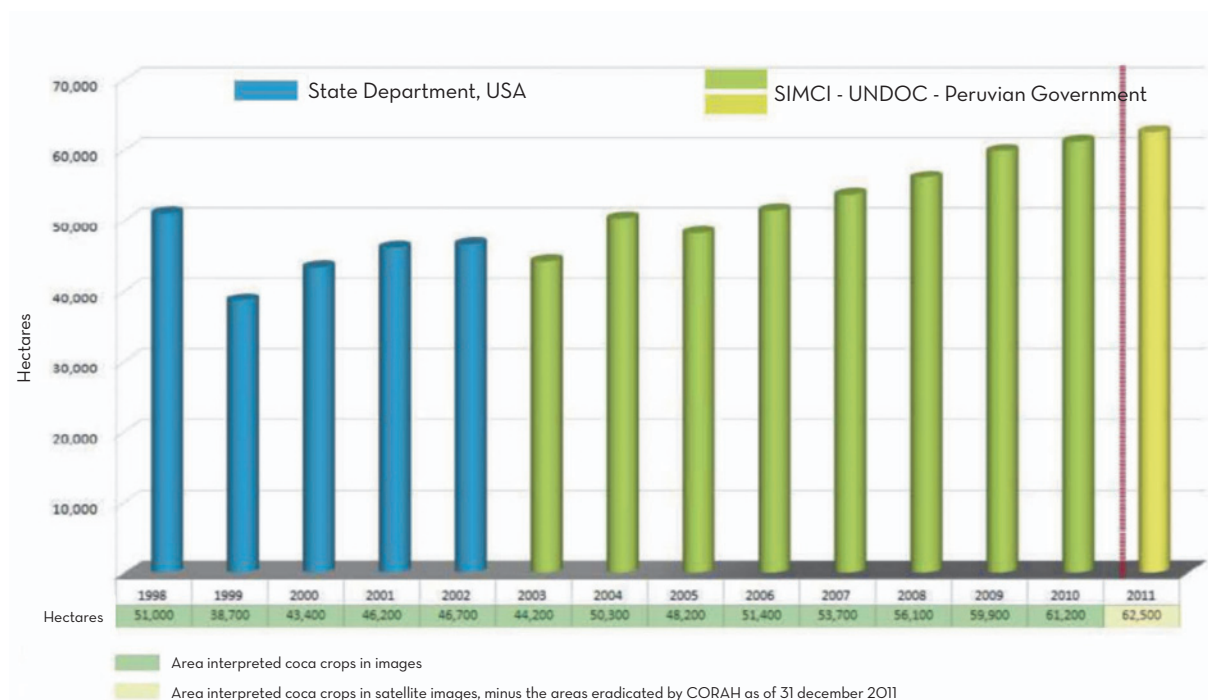


## Coca leaf crop surface area



Source: Dirección Antidrogas, Policía de Perú

## Coca crop surface area, 1998-2011



## Coca crop density in Peru, 2011



The net surface area occupied for illegal coca crops as of 31 December 2011 is an estimated 62,500 hectares, including drug trafficking areas and areas where production is intended for traditional consumption (coca chewing).

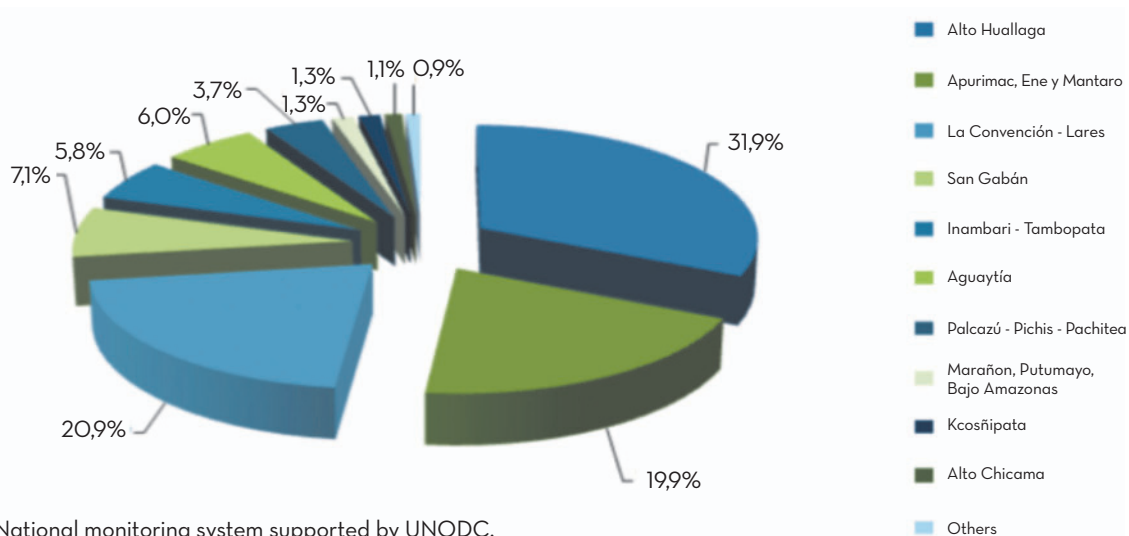
In this respect, the 2004 FONAFE study states that coca leaf demand for traditional consumption amounts to 9,000 tonnes and that said volume requires 6,676 hectares.

In the case of Alto Huallaga, there was a slight 0.7% increase, which shows a certain stability in the production area. In the case of Aguaytía, there is significant variation, 27%, mainly due to the substantial increase in cultivation areas, in particular in Huipoca.

It should be borne in mind that between 2005 and 2009 Aguaytía and in particular Huipoca received population from Alto Huallaga. For this reason, in this period the total area taken up by coca crops increased

by practically fourfold, from 917 hectares to 2,913 hectares, with coca leaf production fully built around trafficking, which currently continues to be the case. A significant piece of data that supports this is the fact that 113 maceration pits were found during the 2011 eradication actions. Source: 2011 CORAH Eradication Report

## Percentage distribution of coca crops by area 2011




Source: National monitoring system supported by UNODC.

## Extension of coca crops by zones, 2008 - 2011 (ha)

AREA/YEAR	Area interpreted on the date of making images				Variation		2011 (Net area on 31 Dec.)	% of total 2011 (on 31 Dec.)
	2008	2009	2010	2011	ha	%		
Apurímac-Ene	16.719	17.486	19.723	19.925	202	1,0%	19.925	31,9%
Alto Huallaga	17.848	17.497	13.025	13.121	96	0,7%	12.421	19,9%
La convención - Lares	13.072	13.174	13.330	13.090	-240	-1,8%	13.090	20,9%
Marañón, Putumayo, Bajo Amazonas	1.209	1.666	3.169	4.450	1.281	40,4%	4.450	7,1%
Inambari - Tambopata	2.959	3.519	3.591	3.610	19	0,5%	3.610	5,8%
Palcazú - Pichis - Pachitea	1.378	2.091	3.323	3.734	411	12,4%	3.734	6,0%
Aguaytía	1.677	2.913	2.803	3.559	756	27,0%	2.325	3,7%
San Gabán	500	742	738	843	105	14,2%	843	1,3%
Other (Mazamari, Calería, Masisea, Contamana, Huallaga Central, Bajo Huallaga, Nuevo Requena)	Not determined	Not determined	654	834	180	27,5%	834	1,3%
Kcosñipata	298	340	383	670	287	74,9%	670	1,1%
Alto Chicama	400	498	500	551	51	10,2%	551	0,9%
<b>Rounded total</b>	<b>56.100</b>	<b>59.900</b>	<b>61.200</b>	<b>64.400</b>	<b>1.200</b>	<b>5,2%</b>	<b>62.500</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

\* For 2011 the areas of Calería, Masisea, Bajo Huallaga, Nuevo Requena have been incorporated.

 Extension of coca crops interpreted by satellite images, removing the eradicated areas by CDRAH on 31 December 2011.

No eradication actions were carried out in 2011, but searches were very frequent. The Peruvian National Police Anti-Drugs Directorate (DIRANDRO) carries out, on a periodic basis, operations aimed at the destruction of maceration pits and clandestine laboratories, seizure of chemicals, drugs, and organizations that store them and transport them from the Apurímac River Valley, Ene, and Mantaro (VRAEM).

The main method for cocaine transport is by sea. Peruvian, Colombian and Mexican traffickers have sophisticated transit networks in Peru to send cargo to Europe, Eastern Asia, Mexico, the Caribbean, the United States and other Latin American countries.

The Loreto region is regarded as a transit area for drug transit from San Martín, Huánaco, and Utcabamba through the Huallaga, Ucayali, Marañón, Amazon, Yavaría, and Napo Rivers, to the border towns of Leticia and Tabatinga (Colombia) and Benjamín (Brazil), located in the Amazon trapeze.

One of the types of drug trafficking to other countries is the use of people, "burriers" (slang combining the words "burro", (donkey) and courier), who usually travel by air, mainly transporting cocaine hidden in packages taped to the body or in their personal items, plastic bags swallowed prior to the start of the trip or containers introduced in their genitals. Burriers are mainly women.

## Illegal drug trafficking routes



## Transport

### Sea Trafficking

Ships carrying cocaine that cross the Atlantic to distribute their cargo in the European Union cross Spain through the three main routes identified by EUROPOL (Northern Route: through the Caribbean, the Azores, to Spain and Portugal; Central Route from South America to Europe: via Cape Verde, Madeira and the Canary Islands; and finally the African Route: from South America to North America and from there to Spain and Portugal).

### Air Trafficking

#### Main drug trafficking air routes.

Lima (Peru) – São Paulo (Brazil) – Madrid (Spain)	Lima (Peru) – São Paulo (Brazil) – South Africa
Lima (Peru) – Madrid (Spain) – Lisbon (Portugal)	Lima (Peru) – Caracas (Venezuela) – Madrid (Spain)
Lima (Peru) – Buenos Aires (Argentina) – South Africa	Lima (Peru) – Caracas (Venezuela) – Morocco

## Modus operandi of criminal organisations

The main methods used in drug trafficking to Europe and Africa are the following: mummy (taped), Burriers and sophisticated packages. Every day these organisations experiment with various methods to avoid detection by authorities.



## European nationals arrested

YEAR/NAT.	Sp.	Pol.	Rus.	Bir.	Ger..	Rom.	Italy	Port.	Fran.	Neth.	UK.	Other	Total
2011	44							9		8	7	42	110
2012	58	1	2	16	1	1	7		7	11		29	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>243</b>

Source: UNIANA-OFINT-DIRANDRO-PNP

## African nationals arrested

YEAR/NAT.	South Africa	Mozambique	Morocco	Kenya	Total
2011	2		1	1	4
2012	3	2			5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>

Source: UNIANA-OFINT-DIRANDRO-PNP

## Other routes used for cocaine trafficking

Route to transport drugs via the Marañón River and trails



Route to transport drugs via the Napo River and trails



## Trafficking from Peru and Bolivia

- Consolidation as cocaine hydrochloride producers.
- Migration of and alliances between drug trafficking structures.
- Increase in coca leaf crops for illegal use.
- Influence of Mexican cartels (motivation for illegal crops).
- Production centre movement (Laboratories and Crystallisers).
- Drug delivery across the Pacific Ocean to the United States and Europe.

## Drug trafficking presence in other regions and consolidation of new routes

Drug trafficking presence in other regions facilitates the strengthening of the drug trafficking problems in some countries due to the consolidation of cartels in international trafficking. Thus, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Chile and Argentina are being used as storage centres for distribution to consumer countries such as Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, Belize and Mexico. Nicaragua, Honduras, the Dominican Republic (in Central America), and Spain and France (in Europe) are being used as platform countries to extract alkaloids.

Consolidation of new routes such as in Africa, seen as the main transit point for drugs headed for Europe, has made the presence of drug trafficking possible, as well as the creation of local networks directly involved in illegal activities. This phenomenon has reactivated the market in Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria among others, becoming a relevant factor for the global anti-drug community.

## The cocaine route in the world: potential markets



Drug trafficking activity generates insecurity in countries and is part of the organised crime associated with extortion, kidnapping and human trafficking, among others, which are a source of financing for criminal organisations.

Drug trafficking generates money laundering operations with very high proceeds. In the last 9 years, more than USD \$5,814 million were laundered in Peru. This information was provided by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). This figure equals on average 8% of the total Peruvian exports for 2011 and almost 10% of the total accumulated in international reserves at the close of April 2012.

The main cocaine markets are located in North America and Western Europe. The United States continues to be the largest individual cocaine market in the world.

Cocaine cargoes headed for Europe are transported across the Atlantic Ocean from Brazil, Venezuela and Ecuador (or between these countries by land routes) to ports located mainly in Spain, the Netherlands and Portugal.



## Statistics for drugs seized headed for Europe and Africa

### Drugs seized being transported by air to Europe

YEAR/COUNTRY	Spain	Italy	Belgium	France	The Netherlands	Other	Total
2011 Kg.	353,300	37,282	35,036		39,644	96,572	561,834
2012 Kg.	256,751	53,958		52,826	31,564	61,580	456,679
<b>TOTAL Kg.</b>	<b>610,051</b>	<b>91,240</b>	<b>35,036</b>	<b>52,826</b>	<b>71,208</b>	<b>158,152</b>	<b>1.018,513</b>

Source: UNIANA-OFINT-DIRANDRO-PNP

The main destination of the drug leaving Peru is Europe – Spain, followed by Italy and the Netherlands. It should also be mentioned that most of the drugs seizures in 2012 were carried out in Jorge Chávez Airport and that their main destination was Europe through the burrier method, but its volume has experienced a considerable decrease with respect to 2011.

### Drugs seized being transported by air to Africa

YEAR/COUNTRY	South Africa	Egypt	Malawi	Liberia	Other	Total
2011 Kg.	18,978				1,274	20,252
2012 Kg.	57,206	12,672	3,238	5,212		78,328
<b>TOTAL Kg.</b>	<b>76,184</b>	<b>12,672</b>	<b>3,238</b>	<b>5,212</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>98,580</b>

Source: UNIANA-OFINT-DIRANDRO-PNP

The main destination of the drug leaving Peru is South Africa, with an increase in drug seizures in comparison to 2011-2012. Operations were carried out at the Jorge Chávez Airport.

### Drugs seized at sea

YEAR/COUNTRY	Spain	Italy	Albania	The Netherlands	Total
2011 Kg.	113,095		81,00		190,095
2012 Kg.	225,910	129,131		35,064	390,105
<b>TOTAL Kg.</b>	<b>339,005</b>	<b>129,131</b>	<b>81,00</b>	<b>35,064</b>	<b>584,200</b>

Source: UNIANA-OFINT-DIRANDRO-PNP

Unlike the drugs seized, which were being transported to Europe by air, the amount of drugs seized that were transported to Europe by sea increased between 2011 and 2012.

## Consumption

Recent studies on the problem of drugs have shown that producing countries eventually become consumers of these substances. There has been an increase of drug addiction in Peru, which poses considerable danger to children and teenagers.

The human cost and public healthcare costs are also significant. The latest study on drug use among schoolchildren, from 2011, showed that 4% of Peruvian schoolchildren had consumed marijuana at one point, while 1.4% had consumed cocaine (lifetime prevalence).

These figures show the impact that activities related to organised crime have on the country. This is all the more worrying given that Peru is one of the main coca leaf producers in the world (61,200 cultivated hectares as of 2012 - UNODC).

## Money laundering

Assets suspicious of having a criminal origin for a total of 1,352 million dollars were laundered in 2011, according to the Financial Intelligence Unit (UIF). 5,347 million dollars were laundered between January 2007 and May 2012. Source: Financial Intelligence Unit.

One of the main criminal activities linked to organised crime which had the most active financial movement in the 2007-2012 period, was illegal drug trafficking, which mobilised a total of 4,436 million dollars (83% of the total amount involved in money laundering), followed by corruption of public servants, which involved a total amount of 149 million dollars for the same period; smuggling, which mobilised 123 million dollars; human trafficking, which generated 2 million dollars; immigrant trafficking that rose to one million dollars and crimes against intellectual property, also for one million dollars.



# TREND ANALYSIS

## «Behaviour»





# General Trends: Brazil

## Organisations

### Threats

- Alliances between drug traffickers/illegal armed groups and transnational organisations in countries like Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru.
- Drugs for weapons transactions in a 1:1 ratio between Colombia and countries in the region

### Weaknesses

- The main agency in charge of controlling drug trafficking is the Federal Police (DPF). DPF is highly professional, but its staff is limited, with a little more than 8,000 men and no criminal investigators. At the state level, the Civil Police also contributes to the fight against drugs in Brazil.

## Trafficking

**Threats:** Cocaine from the Andes also leaves Brazil via "mules" or "couriers" who carry it ingested, in double-bottom suitcases or taped to the body/clothes. For example, between July and August 2011, the Federal Police (DPF) arrested 46 Nigerians who were transporting cocaine ingested as capsules.

By land. Bolivia is the main point of origin for drugs entering Brazil. They enter Brazil mainly in commercial lorries, private cars and commercial buses. However, Bolivian cocaine also enters Brazil through its triple border shared with Paraguay, Argentina and Northern Uruguay.

By air. The Federal Police (DPF) calculates that 75% of the drugs entering Brazil from Bolivia do so via small aircrafts taking off from and landing on illegal landing strips.

By river. Once the cocaine enters Brazil from the Andes countries, it is transported to urban centres by land, particularly to Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, where it is prepared for internal consumption or to be sent to Europe and Africa.

Colombian and Peruvian cocaine enters Brazil mainly by the rivers in the Amazon region and is then sent to the ports of Manaus and Belem de Pará. Once it reaches these ports, it is included in large cargoes that are sent to Africa and Europe on commercial ships. In some cases, small aircrafts are also used to transport cocaine from Colombia to Brazil.

## Precursors, Chemical Substances and Synthetic Drugs

**Threats:** According to the Federal Police (DPF), restrictions on the acetone trade have forced drug traffickers to use substitutes to produce cocaine hydrochloride, such as concrete and lime. It should be pointed out that despite restrictions on the export of acetone, kerosene and petrol to Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, these substances are not controlled for local use, which makes it easier to funnel these chemical substances into legal entry for production of illegal drugs.

Synthetic drugs (ecstasy/MDMA and LSD) are sent to Brazil by postal or air delivery and consumed by middle- and high-class young people in Brazil. Some European mules bring synthetic drugs into Brazil and return to their countries carrying cocaine.

## Production

The Federal Police (DPF) said that in 2011, twelve (12) laboratories to turn cocaine base into crack were found in Brazil. For example, in 2011 the authorities destroyed five crack laboratories in the State of São Paulo. 66 kg of cocaine base, 8 kg of crack, 1,100 kg of marijuana and various solvents and equipment used to produce crack were found in one of these laboratories.

## Small-scale drug dealing and Consumption

The Federal Police (DPF) focuses its anti-drugs operations on the State of São Paulo (the largest consumer in the country), as well as on the Amazon, Acre, Rondonia, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraná. These seven states account for 76% of the cocaine seized and for 78% of the marijuana seized.

The drugs consumed in Brazil are not usually Colombian, as this is very pure and aimed for markets with higher purchasing power. A large part of the cocaine consumed in Brazil comes from Bolivia and marijuana comes from Paraguay. Drugs from what are known as the Peruvian “firms” also reach the country. Source: US State Department Report on Narcotics Control, March 2012.

# General Trends: Colombia

## Marijuana

- Drug trafficking agents maintain marijuana production in the Cauca and Magdalena departments.
- Implementation of new routes or mobility corridors used for marijuana trafficking.
- Departments such as Valle del Cauca, Quindío, Risaralda and Caldas remain important points for marijuana transit.
- The Magdalena, Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Valle del Cauca and Cauca departments appear as production and storage areas.

## Production

- Production centres move towards urban areas.
- Laboratories are removed to more distant locations, closer to borders.
- Rotation of production infrastructures in strategic locations for short periods, to avoid their detection and destruction.
- Stable, selected closed work teams, with restricted information and defined roles (Clandestine compartments. Workers are not permanent and the numbers are adjusted depending on production periods).
- Organisation adaptation and technification according to State security controls.
- Technification of cultivation and processing.

- Crystallisers for cocaine hydrochloride production are increasingly smaller, which facilitates their disassembly and mobility to other areas.
- Changes in the production processes, optimising time and performance.

## **Chemical Substance Trafficking**

- Proliferation of small companies and establishments that do not meet the requirements to handle chemical substances.
- Increased number of petrol stations and fuel distributors in illegal crops areas.
- Increased number of alliances between drug trafficking organisations and legal companies for the funnelling of chemical substances.
- Increased use of fuel, concrete and urea for cocaine base extraction in an 86% proportion, as well as use of unlimited quotas to handle these kinds of substances with respect to community demand.
- Increased deviation of chemical substances, legally introduced in the country, for the production of illegal drugs.
- Increase in technical smuggling (change in product names, declared import lower than the real one).
- Increase in open smuggling (goods that illegally cross the border).
- Increased use of uncontrolled substitute chemical substances.
- Maintained use of finished products containing controlled substances.
- Growth in substance recycling.
- Increased use of nationally manufactured chemical products.

## General Trends: Panama

Incursion of criminal groups (gangs) which were previously in charge of cargo custody and security is noteworthy. They are currently controlling internal routes, maintaining contact with buyers in other countries and providing their own logistics, which means that they are operating as organised groups.

Security and port public servants have been bribed by these organisations to allow container tampering by introducing small amounts of cocaine hydrochloride from local groups.

Delivery of drugs by national and international courier companies is carried out by national citizens working in coordination with foreign nationals, in charge of packaging, preparing and distributing the packages containing drugs for later delivery to other destinations.

Money trafficking (dollars, euros) through people and vehicles has been detected in airports and border check points on a larger scale.

Another trend is use of areas, such as storage or temporary storage sites, for redelivery of drugs, which are guarded by foreign citizens. This activity had been previously performed by nationals and gave rise to problems of mistrust among members of the organisations due to theft.



## General Trends: Peru

### Crops and Production

There is a distinct change in native communities that have been replacing their traditional activities (fishing, agriculture, hunting) for illegal crops, production of illegal drugs, as the main source of income in a quick, easy way.

Native communities are adapting to institutional and authority controls, and displaying strong resistance, even resorting to violence to prevent the seizure of plantations and laboratories.

Meanwhile, in Peru coca crops became very profitable in areas such as the valley of the Apurímac and Ene Rivers (VRAE), where crop replacement efforts have failed for the most part. “Sometimes people come (providing financial incentives) and labourers want to stop growing coca to plant cocoa or coffee beans. However, there is no follow-up and labourers finally end up growing coca again”.

Transfer of criminal organisation elements to jungle border areas seeking territories with lower control and lack of State presence, which facilitates alliances with drug trafficking activities.

Drug traffickers use large laboratories and storage centres to produce and store cocaine and then transport it to coastal area for its cutting and distribution.

### Chemical Substance Trafficking

The routes by which materials for opium processing and its later conversion into heroin enter into the country are the following: from Ecuador through the Napo and Pastaza Rivers to the Peruvian jungle; from Colombia through the Putumayo River; and from Brazil through the Amazon, Yavaría and Madre de Dios Rivers.

Legal entry of substitute substances for national marketing, mainly come from Colombia and Brazil, due to the proximity between borders, which later on, are funnelled to production centres due to the lack of control by authorities.

Cross-border chemical substance trafficking is generally performed via rivers by means of small vessels (cargo or passenger transport), with an adapted structure or mixed with other products.

Deviation of chemical substances reaching Iquitos from Pucallpa (concrete, fertilisers) and the fuel produced in Iquitos takes place mainly through rivers (Amazon) from Iquitos to the border with Brazil and Colombia.

As regards routes, Peru, the second global cocaine producer, holds a significant position and is crucial for criminal organisations, not only Peruvian ones, but also Colombian and even Mexican representatives and of other nationalities who make use of its ideal location on the Pacific coast to send large drug cargoes to any part of the world.

Delivery of drugs to Europe is also a constant, as aircrafts are frequently used, departing from different points in Peru to Bolivia, where the drugs are stored and taken to other countries.

## Drug Trafficking Assessment: Europe

The European Union has a high demand for drugs, which leads drug addicts to seek new substances in addition to cocaine. In Europe, drug consumption seems to remain relatively stable. Prevalence levels continue to be globally high from a historical point of view, but they have not increased, and in some significant locations cannabis consumption among young people has shown positive signs.

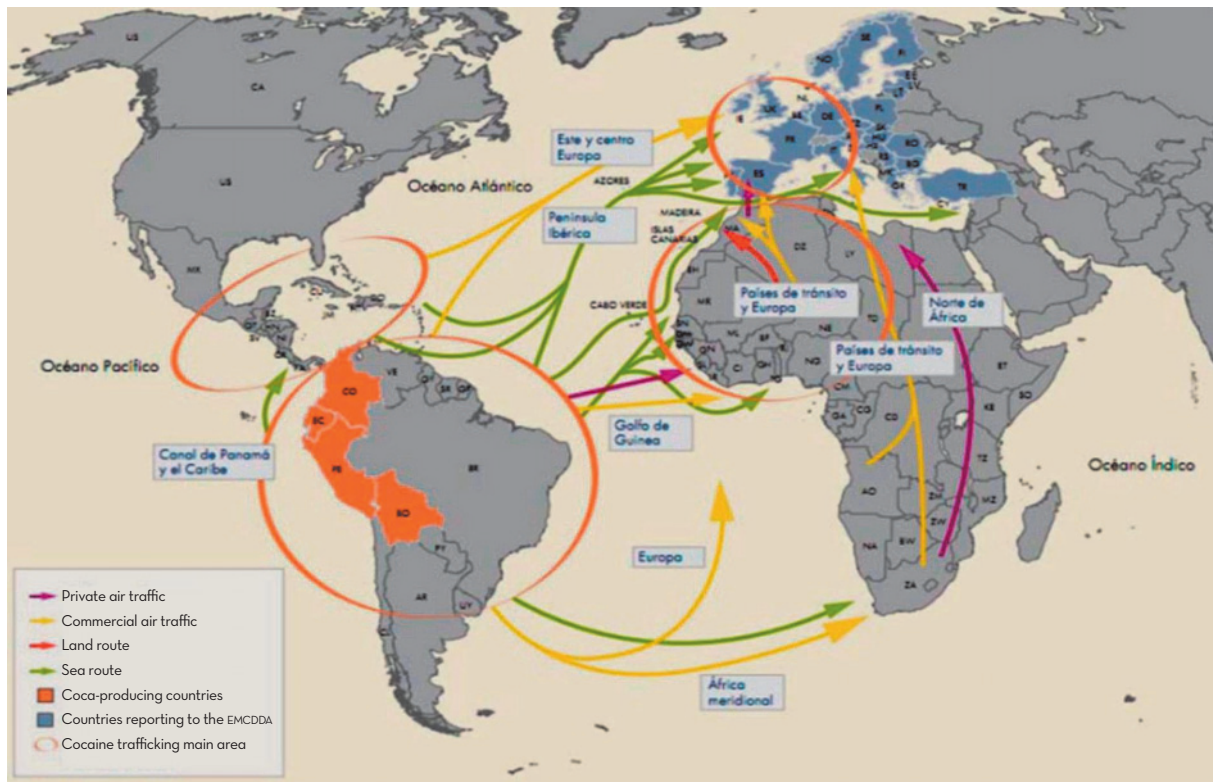
By contrast, the evolution of the synthetic drug market shows worrying signs of increased consumption and, in general terms, of use by drug consumers of a large number of substances.

As regards traditional drugs, according to the 2011 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Europe represents 30% of cocaine consumers in the world. In 2009, approximately 123 tonnes of cocaine reached Europe, with an estimated value of USD 33 billion, figures similar to that of the USA (157 tonnes with an approximate value of USD 37 billion). If this trend continues, Europe might become, in the medium term within the main cocaine market, ahead of the USA, which in the nineties still had a consumption that was four times that of the European market. Source: General Directorate of Foreign Policy.

Obviously, these data, taken from the UNODC report, cannot guarantee such precise percentages. This report is meant to provide a police point of view of the situation and the operation of criminal organisations, but not to confirm how much drug is sent to Europe, Africa, the USA or the rest of the world, as this would be very difficult and non-objective.

According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Spain is the main entry point for cocaine and cannabis. It is also the country with the highest consumption levels in the EU, ahead of Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany; although in recent years there has been a significant decrease with figures similar to those for 2001.

Due to its strategic position as the main entry point for cocaine from Latin America, Spain is also the European country that has seized the largest amount of this drug. Since 2006, seizures in Spain and



Europe have decreased by half, due to greater border control in Latin America and better police cooperation between both regions. However, these data also evidence the existence of new entry routes via West Africa, where borders are harder to control and making use of the cannabis networks already created in countries such as Morocco, as the main entry point to Europe (through Spain). Source: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA).

Traditionally, cocaine entered Europe through the “sailboat route” by which cocaine cargoes from Colombia reached the coast of Galicia. This route has dwindled due to the increase in seizures and currently 30% of the cocaine consumed in Europe travels through West Africa (Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone, among others). Owing to the institutional weakness in many African countries, the high corruption levels and poverty rates and coastlines with no surveillance, Latin American cartels have found this new route ideal to introduce their cargoes. In addition, cartels have established a new route by which they send the drug hidden in merchant ship containers from Brazil to Eastern European countries and the Balkans.

Even though drug trafficking networks also operate in Europe and drug production has risen, drug consumption continues to be the main problem in the EU. For this reason, European policies mainly target control of illegal drug demand.

The EU has been coordinating its drug trafficking policy for 20 years now, which has led to the adoption of eight common strategies or action plans. The EU perceives illegal drug consumption and addiction as a public health problem, while applying a public safety and repression policy against organised crime. Thus, its policy is based on simultaneous reduction of supply and demand, applying “a balanced, comprehensive approach”.

Despite these advances, there are still differences between member States as regards political priorities. While most countries emphasise the prevention, medical treatment and decriminalisation of drug consumption, others prioritise criminal punishment of drug consumption and possession. These differences make it possible to reach common ground in international forums and in dialogue with third parties, including Latin America. However, the dominant paradigm in Europe to reduce drug demand is decriminalisation of consumption and possession of small amounts. This policy is particularly visible in Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom. Source: General Directorate of Foreign Policy

The European model is characterised because its goal is to reach a pragmatic balance between decrease of supply and demand, as well as by recognition of the importance of human rights but also of community safety. This approach makes it possible to launch a coordinated action in cooperation, in police action and in initiatives related to border control, as proven by the current programmes focusing on the routes for the import of heroin from Afghanistan, cocaine trafficking through the Atlantic and West Africa, and production of synthetic drugs.

## Maritime Routes





## Special emphasis: Africa

Given the evolution, expansion and mobility of organised criminal groups, the new types of crimes, the professionalisation of the methods employed and the establishment of networks to carry out their illegal activities, a global, specialised response must be provided by Security Forces, as well as the application of all the legal instruments available to ensure citizens' rights and freedom within a place of freedom, security and justice.

In addition to their specific crimes, criminal organisations have an impact on the normal financial and economic development of the State by means of their activity. They also tend to seek political influence and often cause a feeling of personal insecurity among citizens with their violent methods.

Organised Crime makes use of the advantages of a space with no internal borders like the European Union, where citizens, goods and services can circulate freely, but then so can criminals, the proceeds of their criminal activities and illegal products.

The direct threat posed by this social scourge to domestic security and citizens' wellbeing requires a comprehensive, multidimensional approach by means of public and private sector efforts which comprises all the characteristics of this phenomenon, with the capacity to adapt to future challenges.

Implementing security policies against the factors that make possible and favour these criminal behaviours, as well as the increase in preventive, administrative and cooperative measures is absolutely necessary to fight and eradicate it.

Responding to the threat of Organised Crime requires a permanent effort on the part of national and international administrations. Thus, cooperation and coordination between them will be the only alternative in the ongoing goal to achieve social wellbeing, which is the basis for any self-respecting public safety effort.

Thus it is necessary to have, on an organisational level, the capacity to collect and analyse the relevant data, as well as to improve and modernise the professional training of the people who fight crime on an everyday basis.

In recent years, the South American drug cartels have turned the West African coast into a strategic ally for their purposes: distribution of cocaine in Europe, but, obviously, just as an additional route. That is to say, criminal organisations will always make use of the weaker countries to build their criminal structure and Africa is obviously a place of interest.

The countries that constitute this "hot spot" in West Africa are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Spain has become, due to its proximity to the African coast, a strategic area for drug transport, as in the case of hashish.

According to The United Nations Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC), "Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat in West Africa", published in November 2008, the decrease in the North American drug market and the growth of the European drug market, together with the weakness of West African governments, have turned this area into a target for drug traffickers, who use it as a transit area for distribution of cocaine in Europe.

Another relevant conclusion in the UNODC Report is the West Africans are paid in cocaine by drug trafficking organisations, which has generated a second flow towards Europe, generally using "air post" on commercial flights. As regards the nationalities involved in this second flow, Senegal, Nigeria, Guinea Conakry and Mali stand out, with Senegal and Nigeria being the countries which have the largest number of seizures in commercial flights, and Nigerians citizens are the most frequently arrested for this type of method.

Use of light aircrafts in hashish trafficking has been common for years now. The drug is loaded in Morocco and transported to Southern Spain or Portugal. The drug can be dropped or else the aircraft can land on rural pathways or empty areas. In the latter case, it is collected by the organisation in an agreed spot. Then the aircraft lands in a local airfield or in some cases the drug is unloaded on the airfield at a time when this can be done discreetly. Pilots are usually South American or Spanish.

This modus operandi has been transferred to cocaine trafficking, as there have been deposits of this substance on the African coast since the consolidation of this route. The drug is loaded onto light aircrafts in Morocco or else directly on the coast of Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Gambia and neighbouring African countries.

Use of private aircrafts to transport cocaine from the African coast to Spain is expected to increase. These are some facilitating factors:

- The flight time of this air route between the African coast and Southern Spain using these aircrafts is short (15 minutes from the Moroccan coast), so transport is quicker and cheaper.

- The drug can be loaded directly from the African coast, eliminating the need for Moroccan middlemen or groups, which can occur in using the land route. South American organised crime groups retain the monopoly on the drugs and operation, and only contact Spanish or Portuguese middlemen for its introduction into the European market. The operation is more profitable.
- Drug delivery is versatile. An aircraft can land on any rural pathway or track. The drug can also be dropped in mid-flight onto an agreed point where it is collected by the organisation. This *modus operandi* benefits from its anonymous nature and transparency in uncontrolled areas.
- There are difficulties in prevention measures by State Security Forces. In addition, when the aircraft's beacon or transponder (a mandatory electronic location tracking device) is turned off, the civil radars are rendered useless. An aircraft cannot be detected if it flies close to the ground.
- Intensification of maritime control in the Strait of Gibraltar area and its reinforcement by means of new projects for control of illegal immigration (protection of Andalusian coasts by means of an Electronic Surveillance System – SIVE and the “Seahorse” Project in African waters, the Canary Islands, and the Mediterranean) make the use of aircrafts an alternative to circumvent these controls.

Use of aircrafts is an extension of the *modus operandi* used by drug cartels in the Americas, who use their experience and knowledge in this respect (most pilots are South American).

Another main *modus operandi* for delivery of cocaine from South America and from Africa in recent years has been use of commercial flights by cocaine trafficking organisations. The substances are hidden in luggage, double bottoms, in girdles close to the body, hidden in objects or else swallowed by “mules”.

These people or “couriers” are the last link in organisations that are exclusively recruited for delivery of drugs and when they are arrested it is almost impossible to get them to collaborate. They often deny the obvious. Criminal organisations frequently have several people fly on the same aeroplane to ensure the success of the delivery, in case one of them is found out in the police filters.

Even though this mode of cocaine delivery does not involve large operations with the seizure of tonnes of drugs and does not directly lead to the dismantlement of criminal organisations, it requires significant control and the intensification of prevention measures, as it is a significant source for introduction of this substance.

Use of “human couriers” or “mules” will continue to increase in flights from South America and from West African countries. The proceeds from cocaine introduced into Europe through this drip system are considerable, both for criminal organisations and for common criminals.

Amounts of great purity are adulterated or cut and can reach two or three times their original weight depending on the adulteration level. 1 kg of cocaine (approximate average transported inside the body) could generate 9,479 doses on the street, reaching a value up to 142,180 euros.

Organisations make trial deliveries to acquire better knowledge of the viability of the air route, seeking Schengen border posts where security is weaker to introduce cocaine in Europe.

The profile of the “couriers” used in the African route by air is: male, Nigerian, with an average age of 33 (age range: 24 to 41) and on flights from Senegal. In all cases in which the courier was Nigerian, the substance had been ingested. 55% of arrests were made in Madrid-Barajas Airport. Senegal and Guinea Bissau are the countries of origin of the flights used by the “couriers” in the African route.

Use by Nigerian groups of private P.O. Box rental in the Mail Boxes franchise to receive drugs (cocaine and heroin) from South America, Africa and Asia has been detected. In the case of Spain, the destinations of the deliveries were different towns in the regions of Valencia and Murcia.

P.O. boxes are located outside of shops and are accessed in a similar way to cash dispensers, which makes it possible to receive drugs 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, using a key provided by the company when signing the contract.

Use of containers for delivery of drugs from South America to Spain is one of the means used by drug trafficking groups. Cocaine is concealed among the declared goods, usually products from the countries used for cocaine delivery. This practice has been used for years now.

Use of small vessels (sailboats and fishing boats) is another main method for introduction of drugs into Spain from South America or the Caribbean, so it can also be used for the transport of drugs from the African coast. In fact, use of these vessels (mainly fishing boats) from Africa for this purpose has already been verified.

In the case of leisure vessels (sailboats, yachts and catamarans), they have the advantage of greater manoeuvrability, discreetness and the cargo is often directly offloaded in a marina with no surveillance or else in empty coves, with the same amount of cocaine as large freighters, with the advantage of lower costs in terms of investment and infrastructures (loading, crew, middlemen, etc.)

This potential was verified in 2006 when the Spanish police seized the largest amount of drugs in a sailboat, which was transporting 4,100 kg of cocaine, and which was intercepted in international waters in the Atlantic.

Finally, as regards the nationality of the vessels used in the African route, Panama ships have been found to be the most frequently used.

Use of Africa as a transit area for cocaine headed for Europe is a consolidated route. However, the analysis performed by various intelligence units shows that the importance of the “African Route” should not be exaggerated, as most of the cocaine introduced in Europe in general and in Spain in particular continues to arrive by sea in containers coming directly from South America. Various Intelligence sources estimate that the African Route amounts to 30% of the total cocaine that reaches Europe.

Special attention should be paid to the Canary Islands. – In mid-2012, more than 2,500 of cocaine were seized inside an aeroplane coming from Venezuela and headed for Mali. This seizure, together with other seizures which have been intensified in the Canary Archipelago and that have led to severe blows against criminal organisations, confirms that the Canary Islands are one of the main entry points

for cocaine from South American countries, such as Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela, headed to Africa, which has become a storage area for drug traffickers.

International mafias are making use of the strategic location of the Islands to conceal cocaine in large ships and private aeroplanes. The summer of 2012 was “historical” in the fight against drug trafficking. Spanish Police, in collaboration with the police forces from four countries, intercepted five tonnes of cocaine in the month of August only. Most of these operations had a common denominator – the West African coast. One of the seizures took place on 15 August, when the Police intercepted a freighter with 3,000 kg of cocaine which had departed from the Gulf of Guinea and was headed for Galicia. Days before, a private jet had been intercepted in the Gran Canaria Airport which carried 1,600 kg of cocaine hidden in humanitarian aid bags.

All the information provided confirms that the Canary Islands have become a transit area for cocaine headed for Africa and that part of its proceeds are being used to finance the current armed conflict in the Sahel.

**Brazil heads the drug trafficking route to Africa** - According to the United Nations Report on Organised Crime in West Africa, “Nigerian groups control 30% of the cocaine exported by sea from Brazil” and adds, “nearly 90% of “mules” or “couriers” carrying cocaine from Brazil to Africa in commercial flights are sent by Nigerian groups settled in São Paulo, the city with the largest Nigerian population in Latin America”. In addition to Brazil, the study specifies that other Latin American countries constitute the drug trafficking route to West Africa. They are Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. As regards Venezuela, the main seizures were carried out on ships and aeroplanes from this country.

According to the same source, 54% of the cocaine that leaves Brazil is from Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. Source: Threat Analysis of the African Route, Central Criminal Intelligence Unit (UCIC) National Police Force of Spain.

The words of the Secretary General of the Andes Community of Nations (CAN), Adalid Contreras, should be highlighted who stated that the fight against drugs requires a strategy with a humane and social development approach given the failure of the approach based only on prohibition; and that the Andes Anti-Drugs Strategy should have a comprehensive nature, to encompass the entire process of the illegal substance problem: that is to say, prevention, production, trafficking and consumption.

Contreras stated that the Andes countries agree that the fight based solely on eradication, use of force and prohibition is not a good option.

“Our goal is for the effort to fight drugs to be more humane, more social, more focused on respect for the rights of people and societies. This is the approach which we need”, he said.

The Andes area, mainly Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, has the largest area of illegal coca plantations in the world, the main source for cocaine manufacturing.

According to experts, the mandatory strategy of eradication of these crops and halting drug delivery has not stopped drug trafficking, so they recommend an alternative development approach to complement prohibition.

"This problem is understood as a global issue with multiple parties responsible. For our continent, this is crucial, as consumer countries must commit to solve a global problem", he noted.

The execution of the Anti-Illegal Drug Project in the Andes Community (PRADICAN) was praised for "working on alternatives for comprehensive, sustainable development, which tries to solve this problem without resorting to purely repressive elements". Source: <http://www.comunidadandina.org>

**The conflict which broke out in Mali some months ago has temporarily interrupted the main cocaine routes from Africa to Europe.**

Traffickers, more versatile than in any other business, foresaw what would happen and adapted their routes in time so as not to lose any part of their lucrative business in the middle of a war.

In the last decade, West Africa has become a point for distribution of cocaine from Latin America on the coca route to Europe. The weakness and poverty in the region make it a good location to establish safe routes. Guinea Bissau is usually the entry point for direct flights from Brazil or Venezuela, as reported by Slate Africa, or by sea. Then the drug is transported to the Mediterranean, where it is easier to introduce it into Europe.

"A-10", as the coca route is known by the experts consulted, is the most important route on parallel 10 on the way to Europe. About 250 tonnes of coca travelled along this route, which was opened in 2009, according to a United Nations report.

Alain Rodier, Research Director in the French Centre for Intelligence Research, says that 10% of the coca reaching Europe comes via Africa. He explains that the conflicts in Tunisia, Libya and Mali have destabilised the usual route, but drug traffickers "have displayed a capacity to anticipate international politics and continue to do business via other routes".

Mathieu Guidere, an academic and expert in the Islamic world, believes that the French military intervention in Mali was "a kick in the anthill which disrupted drug and weapons trafficking and illegal immigration in the region, breaking the trafficking networks in Northern Mali". Drug traffickers pay radical Islamic movements for "right of passage", which is 10% of the total value of the load, although according to Guidere, "some armed groups pay more to ensure protection of the convoy".

Xavier Raufer, a criminologist adds: "Tracing a cocaine route is impossible because the ink never dries on the page, channels change". In 40 years "transport of cocaine from Latin America to Europe has never been interrupted". He adds that "we do not understand drugs sufficiently well despite the market", and claims that for every 25 dollars' worth of cocaine seized, at least 100 reach their destination".

For the criminologist, "the new roads are being traced through Angola, the Republic of Congo, the Great Lakes or Libya, which continues to be a vast mosaic of warring tribes". "Proceeds from coca trafficking are so huge that longer routes and transport costs are not a problem", he says. Source: <http://www.guinguinbali.com>

## Drug Trafficking in Africa

Africa has become a transit zone for illegal drugs, particularly cocaine from South America, as well as heroin from Afghanistan and Pakistan, in West Africa (Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone). Special attention should be paid to the Republics of Ghana, Benin, and Togo.



## The Republic of Ghana

### Context

- Ghana is a West African country that borders on Burkina Faso to the North, on Togo to the East, on Ivory Coast to the West, and on the Gulf of Guinea to the South.
- Its capital is Accra and has an estimated population of 25 million people.

### The illegal drug problem

- Ghana is a transit zone for illegal drugs, particularly cocaine from South America as well as heroin from Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Illegal drugs crossing Ghana have the European market as their final destination, although part of the cargoes is sent to South Africa or North America.
- The critical spots for drug trafficking are the Kotoka International Airport, as well as the ports of Tema and Takoradi. Likewise, the border posts of Aflao (Togo border), Elubo and Sampa (Ivory Coast border) are regarded as strategic points for illegal activities.
- South American drug trafficking organisations have increased their influence in Ghana owing to the alliances established with Nigerian and Ghanaian organisations.
- Drug transit through this country has also had an impact on internal drug consumption, especially methamphetamines.

### Modus operandi

- Trafficking is mainly by sea through transfer in the high seas of large loads to small fishing boats which then transport the drug to Ghana.

- Other cargos enter via different points in West Africa and are then stored in Ghana to exit the country by air, either on cargo flights or through human couriers who travel from the Kotoka Airport.
- The most frequent concealment methods are double-bottom suitcases, insertion and ingestion.
- It is estimated that in 2011, the price of one kilo of cocaine reached 38,000 dollars on the streets of Ghana, the kilo of heroin 21,000 dollars, the kilo of methamphetamines 13,500 dollars and the kilo of marijuana 32 dollars.

## **Institutional Framework**

- The main anti-drugs institution is the Ghanaian Drug Agency (NACOB), which is a direct part of the Ministry of the Interior.
- The Ghanaian Police Service (GPS), like NACOB, is also part of the Ministry of the Interior. Other agencies that are part of this Ministry are: the Prison Service, the National Firefighter Service, the Immigration Service, the Organisation for Control of Disasters and the Refugee Committee.
- GPS is headed by the General Police Inspectorate, which has more than 23,000 members and is composed by regional and divisional commandos who report to the central command in Accra.
- The Police have an Intelligence Bureau and a Criminal Investigation Department which includes the INTERPOL bureau in Ghana.
- The Ghanaian Government has taken significant measures last year to improve its capacity for response against drug trafficking. Thus, the following have been created:
  - 1) The National Bureau for Organised Crime (EOCO), whose purpose is to fight organised crime, drug trafficking and other high-impact crimes.
  - 2) The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) to analyse and report suspicious financial transactions.

## **Main Operations**

- Since 2007, with the support of the British Government, Ghanaian authorities have carried out Operation West Bridge in Kotoka International Airport.
- Since its inception, this operation has made it possible to seize drug cargos for a total of 338 million dollars at market value.
- This operation has helped to decrease the flow of illegal drugs into the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe.

## The Republic of Benin

### Context

- Benin is a West African country that borders on Niger and Burkina Fasso to the North, on Nigeria to the East and on Togo to the West.
- Its capital is Porto Novo, and has an estimated population of 9.5 million people.

### The illegal drug problem

- Benin is a transit zone for illegal drugs (marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines and heroin).
- The final destination of cocaine and heroin is mainly the European market. In the case of marijuana, it is grown in central Benin for internal consumption and for consumption in the countries in the region.

### Modus operandi

- According to North American authorities, there are signs that large cargoes of cocaine (from South America) and heroin (from Afghanistan and Pakistan) enter Benin by sea in small ships or cargo containers.
- Drugs are then taken out of Benin headed for Europe or other West African countries.

### Institutional Framework

- The Benin National Police is part of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Safety.
- One of the specialised departments in the Benin Police is the Legal Police Department (DCPJ). DCPJ has several units, such as the anti-drug and anti-precursor trafficking bureau (OCERTID), the statistical analysis bureau, the criminal matters bureau, and the technical and scientific police bureau.
- The INTERPOL Benin bureau is inside DCPJ.
- There is a Police Office for Container Control (UMCC) in Cotonou Port.
- The main anti-narcotics unit is the Central Bureau for the Repression of Illegal Drug and Precursor Chemical Trafficking (OCERTID).
- This agency coordinates the activities of several bodies, including the Police, the Gendarmerie, Customs and the Forestry Service, among others.

- The critical points identified by OCERTID for illegal drug trafficking are Benin International Airport and Cotonou Port.

## **Main Operations**

OCERTID made the following seizures between January and September 2011:

- 246.5 kilos of marijuana
- 424.4 kilos of cocaine hydrochloride
- 200.2 kilos of heroin

## The Republic of Togo

### Context

- A West African country.
- It borders on Ghana to the West, on Benin to the East, on Burkina Fasso to the North, and on the Atlantic Ocean to the South.
- Its capital is the city of Lomé with an estimated population of 6.9 million people in 2012.

### The illegal drug problem

- Even though Togo is not a drug producer, it plays a significant role in regional drug trafficking (particularly hard drugs).
- It is used as a transit zone for intercontinental drug movement.
- Its capacity to control transnational drug flows is limited by the lack of resources or means and the inability to control corruption in long porous borders.
- Anti-narcotics efforts have increased and, as a result, record illegal drug seizures were reportedly carried out in 2011.
- The sole drug produced in Togo is marijuana. This drug is produced to cover local demand (which has increased) and to a small extent for cross-border distribution by small dealers.
- Even though heroin and cocaine are not produced in Togo, they are also available in the internal market. Drug abuse by Togo citizens is relatively rare, and few crimes are connected to drug use.
- Even though heroin and cocaine are not produced in Togo, they are also available in the internal market. Drug abuse by Togo citizens is relatively rare, and few crimes are connected to drug use.

### Institutional Framework

- Three agencies are in charge of application of the anti-drug law: the police, the gendarmerie, and customs.
- The Central Anti-Drug and Money Laundering Bureau (OCRTIDB) is in charge of coordination of these three agencies. It also investigates and arrests all those involved in drug crimes.
- The Head of the Central Bureau is a member of the Ministry for Security.

- In practice, the police and gendarmerie conduct their investigations autonomously, which leads to lack of accountability and lack of seizure and operation records.
- The National Anti-drugs Committee sponsors anti-drug films and discussion groups for the advancement in education for the prevention of drug abuse.
- For the National Anti-Drug Day (26 June), the committee worked with civic organisations to hold a week of anti-drug activities.

## Main Operations

- Operation Atakora (simultaneously executed in Benin, Ghana, and Togo from 16 and 28 July) was an initiative of the Economic Community of West Africa States as part of its Plan for Regional Action on Drugs and was carried out in coordination with INTERPOL.
- More than 160 members of the police, customs and agencies specialising in drugs were involved in this action against organised criminal networks.
- As a result of the control exercised in airports, sea ports and land borders, cannabis, methamphetamines and highly addictive painkillers were seized. This operation was preceded by a training session by INTERPOL and the Colombian National Police in Lomé to update their agencies on the latest investigation techniques.

## Main results in 2012

In July 2012, an INTERPOL operation with the support of ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States) led to the seizure of about eight tonnes of illegal substances and 74 arrests.



## Operation ATAKORA

- The operation known as ATAKORA was carried out in Benin, Ghana and Togo and more than 160 officers from the police, customs and units specialised in drug trafficking were involved.
- Operations were held in airports, sea ports and land borders.



## Cooperation with the Colombian National Police

- Operations lasted three days, between 26 and 28 July.
- As preparation for the operation, a training session with INTERPOL and the Colombian National Police was held in Lomé (Togo) to update local authorities on the latest investigation techniques.

## Conclusions

1. It should be mentioned that, despite the support provided by international bodies, as well as financial support from ECOWAS, Police Forces in West Africa display great deficiencies in preparation, equipment and technical knowledge.
2. The visit to Ghana, Benin and Togo showed that the resources available to African police forces are very scarce. In some cases, police officers are forced to spend their own resources in police activities.
3. According to the US State Department Report on Drug Control in 2012, corruption, lack of resources and porous borders between the countries in the region prevent prohibition efforts. This report states that in the case of Ghana, prosecution of drug traffickers has not been successful.
4. Generally speaking, crimes take years to be processed, due to the lack of experience and knowledge among prosecutors and judges.
5. There is no inter-institutional coordination between the various agencies in charge of controlling illegal drugs. For example, in the case of Togo, despite the fact that the Central Drugs Bureau is in charge of coordinating efforts, in practice the police and the gendarmerie act independently.

6. It was observed that, in the seizures carried out, drugs often are not disguised or concealed by criminals, which means that there is no conviction on the part of the authorities, and there is a high degree of freedom for illegal substance trafficking.
7. A lack of check points along the borders, in airports and ports was also observed.
8. There are no infrastructures or strategies against drug trafficking.



# General Conclusions





## General Conclusions

President Juan Manuel Santos has made an appeal in several international forums, such as the Summit of the Americas to start an in-depth discussion, headed by scientists and experts, on the war against drugs.

The political leaders in the Summit of the Americas of April 2012 agree to perform an analysis of the results and the prospects of the war on drugs, in order to assess alternatives. This analysis will be based on scientific evidence within the framework of shared responsibility.

On a regional level, Uruguay made the first proposal for decriminalisation of illegal drugs. The Uruguayan Government put forward the decriminalisation of marijuana sale and production. It was approved in late July this year.

The USA has also placed greater emphasis on prevention programmes over hard-line programmes attacking drug supply.

As shown by the 2012 USA National Drug Control Strategy, the Obama Administration has re-channelled its efforts to reduce use of illegal drugs, placing greater emphasis on prevention and treatment of the illegal drug problem as a public health issue.

Consequently, with the announcements made by President Santos, the Colombian Government passed Law 1566 of 2012 on 31 July 2012. This Law seeks to turn illegal drugs into a public health problem by treating drug addicts as patients and not as criminals.

With the launch of this Law, care of drug addicts will become part of the mandatory healthcare plan (POS) and treatment may not be independently billed.

In August 2012, the Mayor of Bogotá, Gustavo Petro, proposed the creation of centres for the controlled consumption of drugs in the “critical spots” in the city with the highest criminality rates (robberies and mobile phone theft). These centres, known as Centres for Medical Care of Drug Addicts (CAMAD) would treat addicts as patients, while attacking micro-trafficking.

The main general conclusions are the following:

Organised crime is increasingly globalised and drug trafficking is not excluded from this process. Any developed or undeveloped country is currently affected to a greater or lesser extent by drug trafficking.

Money laundering is inexorably linked to this crime and must be fought at the same time as any drug trafficking investigation. There is no doubt that collaboration on these issues and international agreements must act in a proactive, coordinated manner.

Producer countries are particularly relevant, but so are transit countries, whether they share a border with producer countries or not. However, Central American and Caribbean countries, which are farther away from the producers, are boosting efforts to transport to the USA and Europe. All countries must join efforts to fight drug trafficking in synergy, with shared responsibility.

Several countries in the South Cone are used by criminal organisations, making use of the distance, to coordinate large cocaine deliveries abroad from there. The main arrests of drug traffickers in recent years took place outside Colombia, which shows the police pressure experienced in recent times.

Drug trafficking criminal organisations are increasingly expanding not only to new routes but also to new markets and thus organised crime is having an increasing impact on world societies.

The African route is one more route, neither a main one nor a secondary one. Criminal organisations seek new modus operandi to send drugs and try to minimise risks. The difficult situation of African governments also poses a serious problem to criminal organisations, which would seek to settle in new countries. The most striking current case is Mali.

Global container trade is the greatest threat to drug trafficking's ability to send drug to any part of the world in a quick, effective and low-risk way. There is no doubt that the inability to examine but a minimal percentage of the containers in transit in the world constitutes a significant point to be taken into account by police forces and customs. This must be a challenge for risk analysis in ports, so as to minimise this great threat insofar as possible. New technologies (R+D, research and development), together with professional experience, constant updating, use of customs databases, and greater police cooperation would facilitate risk management and decrease the permeability of port and airport organisations.

In 2012 and so far in 2013, there has been a significant increase in seizures of sailboats and yachts, as the route originating in Argentina, Brazil. Venezuela has once again become an important player. Crime organisations use various highly sophisticated means to send drugs in addition to methods used for years. That is to say, any method can be used to send drugs.

The disappearance of the main cartels, currently turned into “criminal gangs” or mini cartels has made it harder to fight these criminal organisations, as they are harder to investigate due to their inherent problems, such as group atomisation, cultural diversity, territorial expansion, etc.

It is very hard to quantify how much drug travels through Africa or leaves for Europe. We cannot even state how much is produced. What is known is that there are more and more markets, new routes, new criminal organisations seeking new partners and international police cooperation is doubtlessly crucial to act jointly and give an adequate, firm response to crime.

Drug trafficking follows a law of physics - it is neither created nor destroyed, only transformed. For this reason, the expansive effect of the countries most committed to the fight against drug trafficking has

an effect of "welcoming" organisations in other countries. The weakest countries should assess the experience acquired by those who have contributed the most to the war on drug trafficking.

## The Problem as a Whole

- Microtrafficking is on the rise and includes the use of air transport, human couriers and cargo and packages. Microtrafficking is one of the many illegal drug transport varieties. Even though it is not the most significant one in drug volume, it is one of the most damaging for the international image of the country.
- Trafficking by means of packages is the most general form. Many networks conceal multiple small amounts of drugs, generally cocaine, physically or chemically, with Europe as the main destination. This method is less risky for traffickers as they cannot be easily linked to the cargo due to the lack of identification controls by transport companies and the large number of deliveries.
- Trafficking by air has been decreasing in countries like Mexico where, owing to the controls implemented, such as the new radar system and the reduction in the number of airports for flights from South America, the use of aircrafts for illegal drug trafficking has decreased since 2003. "Mexico installed new radar systems and reduced the number of airports authorised to receive flights from South and Central America".
- The situation in countries like El Salvador and Honduras is different, as illegal flights, mainly from Venezuela, have increased, particularly in areas bordering on Colombia (Vichada and Arauca areas), and in some cases in the region of Urabá, Córdoba and Antioquia. In these countries, topographic conditions and road infrastructures, the lack of presence of local authorities, hard to access areas, weaknesses in the operational scope of authorities by air and high levels of corruption provide the conditions for drug trafficking by means of illegal flights.
- In the case of Colombia, trafficking by air has decreased, a dynamics which stands opposed to the increase in trafficking by sea by means of using semi-submersible vessels, increasingly specialised, which set new challenges in the fight against illegal drug trafficking. A feature of organisations that use this kind of device is the establishment of infrastructures for manufacturing in neighbouring countries specifically in border areas that have similar conditions to those in Colombia. In recent months this year, semi-submersible vessels were seized on the Colombian border with Venezuela and Ecuador, where technological innovations in construction were found, which provide greater underwater autonomy and thus a lower risk of detection.
- Even though some Central American countries had served as a route for cartels with the atomisation of Colombian organisations, there appeared multiple new trafficking routes, which currently involve not only this subcontinent but also the islands in the Caribbean. In addition, maritime and air controls by authorities in the region have placed pressure on land trafficking through Central America, turning it into a key route for trafficking from South America. But it is not only used as a route: some countries are used for money laundering, as a centre for traffic coordination, for the installation of production infrastructures and as a refuge for middle-ranking drug traffickers.

- The role played by Central American countries is of special interest, as they have become strategic drug corridors between South America and the United States. Even though the problems in these countries are not linked to natural drug crops and production, the emergence and fight between cartels for control over transit routes has given rise to a negative impact which takes the form of violence and alliances between them to confront the strong controls imposed by national governments.

On 27 October, the governments of Peru and Ecuador signed an agreement to counter the crimes of illegal drug trafficking, fuel smuggling and insecurity which have an impact on the border areas between both nations. In the bi-national meeting held in Lima, Peru, the ministers of the Interior of Ecuador (José Serrano) and of Peru (Óscar Valdés) signed an agreement to discuss these issues. Serrano highlighted the importance of executing actions aimed at strengthening citizens' safety in border towns, "enabling joint fighting against organised crime plaguing some areas in the region".

This agreement will achieve operational consolidation to establish strategies against crime, insisted the Ecuadorean minister. Source: Ministry of the Interior and Justice.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the national anti-drug authority and other national organisations linked to this problem, has been carrying out an intense work in international action for the fight against illegal drug trafficking through bilateral relationships with other countries, through multilateral organisations in the United Nations System (United Nations Office against Drug and Crime, UNODC and the Drug Commission), and in the Organisation of American States through the Inter-American Commission against Drug Abuse, CICAD and the Andes Community, trying to strengthen and increase mechanisms for cooperation with Peru.

## Other aspects of interest

- **Applicability:** A comprehensive proposal based on control of the supply and the decrease in demand to meet this problem on a border level.
- **Control of Microtrafficking:** Transport of illegal substances in small amounts via three transport means: air, land and rivers or sea, by means of departmental and international networks. There are several methods: impregnation, tampered cargoes or packages, and human or animal couriers through a cooperation platform.
- **More staff in operating units,** in order to achieve coverage capacity on a national level, in particular, in areas directly involved in the environment where this phenomenon takes place.
- **Strengthening of the basic units for investigation of drug trafficking crimes** in the main cities, with suitable resources and technological means to carry out their investigational duties.
- **Definition of priority goals,** identifying the drug trafficking networks with the most impact on public safety so as to focus the effort and capacity of the operating units involved in their dismantlement.

## Recommendations

1. Given the globalisation of criminal organisations, Police Forces, together with Judicial Authorities, must be more proactive in the fight against this scourge. In Europe through EUROPOL, internationally through INTERPOL and in Latin America, Central America, and the Caribbean through AMERIPOL. They should all establish more synergies and work in coordination.
2. Europe, together with the programmes pertaining to the cocaine route such as the AMERIPOL-EU Project, is starting to obtain visible local results, which can help to consolidate a model for cooperation in the exchange of information in the fight against drug trafficking in a practical, effective way from this region to Europe and Africa. It would be advisable to use this European cooperation model for drug trafficking towards Europe.
3. Independent fighting against organised crime must be avoided: success lies in the exchange of effective information in real time between the agencies involved in the fight against drug trafficking. Joint investigation teams are a successful experience. Perhaps in the future countries could joint efforts through their Police Forces in the fight against drug trafficking, as is already the case in Europe.
4. The Ameripol information exchange system, which is currently being developed with EU support, can be a very useful tool to exchange strategic information. Use of this application will be crucial to homogenise action criteria and establish common guidelines against organised crime.
5. It is crucial for Police Forces to issue regional and global drugs reports, as the data handled are then objective and there are no deviations from their purpose, namely providing situational data on drug trafficking obtained by Police Forces. Ameripol should specialise in the drafting of strategic reports for assessment of the threat in the region in a fully objective way.
6. Organised crime should be fought not only by means of intentions, but through firm, decisive policies suited to local development. The Euro-order in Europe, controlled deliveries, undercover agents, joint investigation teams, cross-border surveillance, among other investigation techniques may serve as a stimulus for the Police Forces, Prosecutors and Judges in the region, as they will no doubt contribute to fighting crime in a more effective way.
7. It would be advisable to start to harmonise laws on certain crimes, particularly drug trafficking as a first step and related crimes as a second step, so as to fight in coordination, executing common policies and effective actions against the power of organised crime in the region. EUROPOL and EUROJUST are good examples of, respectively, police and judicial coordination and cooperation in Europe.
8. The generation of prestige for any Institution is, without a doubt, crucial to the success of any organisation, and the police, judges and prosecutors are not exempt from this. One of the parameters best defined by the EU is the provision of qualification and high-level training with the best professionals at the highest quality standards. Working on this future line is crucial.

9. Police forces are increasingly well prepared to fight crime, but they must be aided by agile, modern laws suited to the global situation. Governments should think about the common good in the region, as organised crime knows no borders and any future agreements should focus on fighting crime from a more transnational, integrative approach.

10. A separation between Police, Judicial and Prosecutorial authorities to fight crime globally is inconceivable nowadays. For this reason, it must be supported by the strengthening of the capacities of these institutions with the sole purpose of peaceful coexistence in society and the eradication of any violence linked to organised crime, in particular drug trafficking.

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