

MEMEM

Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission
(CICAD)

Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)

The Bahamas (Commonwealth of)

EVALUATION OF
PROGRESS IN
DRUG CONTROL

2007-2009



Organization of
American States

2010



OAS/Ser.L/XIV.2.48
CICAD/docx.1843/10

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

**Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)
Governmental Expert Group (GEG)**

**THE BAHAMAS
(COMMONWEALTH OF)**

**EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL
2007-2009**

ISBN 978-0-8270-5545-2



CICAD wishes to thank the following national institutions of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas which provided information for this MEM national Fifth Round Report:

- The National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Bahamas National Drug Council
- Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre
- Ministry of Health – Health Information & Research Unit
- Ministry of National Security
- Royal Bahamas Police Force – Drug Enforcement Unit
- Royal Bahamas Police Force – Forensic Science Section
- Royal Bahamas Defense Force
- Bahamas Customs
- The Office of the Attorney-General
- Financial Intelligence Unit



PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is a diagnostic tool designed by all member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to periodically carry out comprehensive, multilateral evaluations of the progress of actions taken by member states and by the hemisphere as a whole, in dealing with the drug problem. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security, an OAS specialized agency, implemented this Mechanism in 1998, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in 1998.

The MEM is not only an evaluation instrument, but has also become a vehicle for disseminating information on the progress achieved by individual and collective efforts of OAS member state governments, catalyzing hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among member state government authorities and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources. The MEM process itself is assessed by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), comprised of delegations from all member states, which meets before the onset of each MEM evaluation round to review and strengthen all operational aspects of the mechanism, including the indicators of the evaluation questionnaire.

National evaluation reports are drafted by experts from each member state, with experts not working on their own country's report, guaranteeing the transparent multilateral nature of the MEM. Each chapter is based on countries' responses to a questionnaire of indicators covering the main thematic areas of institution building, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures as well as subsequent comments and updated information provided by the government-appointed coordinating entities.

This report covers the full country evaluation for the MEM Fifth Round evaluation period 2007-2009. The follow-up report on the implementation progress of recommendations assigned to the country will be published in June 2012. All MEM reports can be accessed through the following webpage: www.cicad.oas.org



INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is an archipelago of approximately 700 islands and has a total area of 13,940 km² with a coastline of 3,542 km. The country has a population of 340,400 (2009) with two main ethnic groups, black and white, and a literacy rate of 95.6% (2003). The Bahamas is a constitutional parliamentary democracy divided into 41 political constituencies. The country has a GDP per capita of US\$24,025 (2009) and an inflation rate of 1.2% (2009). The Bahamas' exports total US\$594.9 million annually (2009) and rely on the principal exports of fish and crawfish, beer, salt, chemicals, fruits and vegetables.

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

A. National Anti-Drug Strategy

The Bahamas had a National Anti-drug Plan 2004-2009, during the evaluation period, 2007-2009, that covered the areas of legal framework, institutional framework, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. The strategic priorities and goals of the Plan were the mobilization and coordination of the human and financial resources of the state and civil society to reduce the effects of drugs in the country.

The National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS), the Drug Council, law enforcement agencies and treatment facilities are involved in executing the national anti-drug plan. The country reports that the Plan allows for regional, provincial and municipal/local jurisdiction. There is no specific budget allocation for the Plan and its implementation is decentralized. While the Plan, administered by the NADS, includes a monitoring and evaluation system, this has not been implemented.

The NADS, established in June 2006, is the national anti-drug authority, which falls under the Ministry of National Security. The national authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, the drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. The NADS has an annual budget which is independent. Sources of financing for the national authority's budget are government allocation and self-financing. The country provides the following figures for the total budget received by the national authority:

Fiscal Year	Total budget received (US \$)
2007	\$ 218,400
2008	\$ 100,000
2009	\$ 70,000



B. International Conventions

The Bahamas has ratified the following international conventions:

- The Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992);
- The Inter-American Convention against Corruption (1996);
- The Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (1997);
- The United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971);
- The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988);
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000);
 - Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,
 - Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and
 - Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003); and
- The United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1953 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

The Bahamas entered reservations to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992).

Regarding the aforementioned international conventions, the country informs that during the evaluation period, 2007-2009, it enacted the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act 2008.

C. National Information System

The Bahamas reports that it has a centralized office that organizes, carries out studies, compiles and coordinates drug-related statistics and other drug-related information.



The Bahamas carried out the following studies related to demand reduction during the years 2006-2009:

Studies	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Priority Studies								
Survey of secondary school students		X		X	X			X
National household surveys		X		X		X		X
Access to patient registers of treatment centers in the country	X		X		X		X	
Recommended Studies								
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X		X		X		X
Access to forensic medicine registers of deceased persons, which show the association of drug use and cause of death.		X		X		X		X
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	X			X		X
Survey of higher education students		X		X		X		X
Number of drug-related deaths	X		X		X		X	
Juvenile Delinquents		X		X	X			X

The country reports the availability of the following information related to supply reduction for the years 2006-2009:

Information	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Priority Information								
Drug availability indicators		X		X	X			X
Quantities of drugs seized	X		X		X		X	
Number of persons charged with and convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	X		X		X		X	
Number of drug labs dismantled	X		X		X		X	
Recommended Information								
Number of persons formally charged with and convicted of money laundering	X		X		X		X	
Number of persons formally charged with and convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		X		X		X	
Number of persons formally charged with and convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X		X		X		X
Quantities of chemical substances seized		X		X		X		X
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		X		X		X	



II. DEMAND REDUCTION

A. Prevention

The Bahamas reports that it is carrying out drug abuse prevention programs that target key populations as follows:

Population Group	Estimated Coverage		Name of Program	Type of Program
	Target Population	% Coverage		
Pre-school: 2.5 - 5 years	15,000	33%	Drug Free schools	Universal
Elementary/primary: 6 – 12 years	16,800	66.6%	Drug Free Schools	Universal
Junior high & high school (secondary school): 13 – 15 years	2,000	25%	Drug Free Schools	Universal
16 – 18 years	2,179	19.1		
Community	20,000	Not Available	Family Island Demand Reduction Programme (FIDR)	Indicated

The country is not implementing programs for university/tertiary education students, street population (street children, street youths, and adults), women, workers in the workplace or incarcerated individuals.

The country reports that its school based prevention programs are compatible with the principles set out in CICAD's Hemispheric Guidelines on School-based Prevention.

During the years 2006-2009, The Bahamas offered Drug Prevention Education training courses to a cross-section of professionals and students. Six persons were certified and 399 persons trained in other prevention courses/seminars.

The country offered courses on prevention, treatment and research in the curricula of the following disciplines associated with drug abuse: Psychology, Nursing, Social work, and Sociology, all at the College of The Bahamas. The Bahamas reports that the University of the West Indies offers 12 month graduate programs in drug addiction, prevention and treatment.

Nine specialists from The Bahamas have also participated in the following regional and international training programs in the prevention, treatment or research of drug abuse: Inter-American Children Institute & Caribbean-wide Project on Drug Abuse Prevention I and II; Substance Abuse Management Programme; Family Island Demand Reduction; and, Drug Free Schools Programme.



The Bahamas did not carry out any process, intermediate or impact evaluations or any research studies of drug abuse prevention programs for 2009.

B. Treatment

The Bahamas reports that the Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for designing and executing public policies regarding treatment. Both the MOH and the Public Hospital Authority (PHA) are responsible for the control and regulation of treatment services, financing, and program supervision.

The Bahamas reports that there are no official operating standards in place for specialized facilities that provide treatment services for persons with problems associated with drug use. The country has no official licensing procedure established to authorize the operation of specialized facilities that provide treatment services. The country does not have an official register of specialized facilities that provide treatment services or a monitoring system for specialized facilities providing these services.

The country's Primary Health Care facilities (PHC) perform specific activities to address problems associated with drug use. Limited screening and referral services are provided at community health clinics.

The Bahamas reports that the number of cases treated in unlicensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use is as follows: 1,130 in 2007, and 1,130 in 2009. Information for years 2008 is not available.

The Bahamas reports that only one out of twenty-three major islands (New Providence) has specialized drug treatment facilities (7). The country indicated that one unlicensed drug rehabilitation specialized facility, Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre (SRC) reported a total of 402 cases treated in 2007, 445 (2008) and 388 (2009). The country reports that the estimated number of persons potentially in need of care is not available.

The Bahamas has four centers offering aftercare programs. Among the aftercare programs offered upon completion of the 4-6 month inpatient treatment program at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, are: an 18 month supportive follow-up services by that facility; and a 6-12 month outpatient program at the Community Counseling and Assessment Centre. Teen Challenge and the Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH), both privately run drug treatment facilities, also offer follow-up care ranging from 6 to 12 months.

The country reports that of the seven specialized treatment facilities, 5 are supervised by staff professionally trained in drug problems.



C. Statistics on Consumption

The Bahamas reports that an estimate of drug use indicators for part of the population is available. An estimate for the general population of the country as a whole is not available. The country reports that it conducts secondary school surveys every five years and provides the following data for the 2008 survey¹:

PREVALENCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL POPULATION

Year of Last Survey: 2008	Target population of the study: Secondary School								
	Representative sample: Y								
	Lifetime (percentage)			Last 12 months (percentage)			Last 30 days (percentage)		
Type of drug	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Alcohol	70.9	65.9	68.2	51.9	47.1	49.3	29.2	28.8	28.9
Tobacco	15.9	10.2	12.9	3.8	3.3	3.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
Solvents & Inhalants	5.5	5.3	5.4	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.0	0.9	0.9
Cannabis Type									
Hashish	0.6	0	0.3	---	---	---	---	---	---
Marijuana	18.1	7.7	12.7	10.0	4.6	7.2	5.4	1.6	3.4
Hallucinogens	0.5	0.1	0.3	---	---	---	---	---	---
Poppy derivatives									
Heroin	0.7	0.3	0.5	---	---	---	---	---	---
Morphine	0.6	0.4	0.5	---	---	---	---	---	---
Opium	0.4	0.2	0.3	---	---	---	---	---	---
Substances that contain cocaine									
Cocaine HCL	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Crack	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Tranquilizers / Sedatives/ Depressants	1.4	2.7	2.1	0.5	1.4	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.5
Stimulants									
MDMA (Ecstasy)	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Other Stimulants	1.4	2.3	1.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.5

Note: Rate of prevalence of drug use is defined as the number of people who used a drug during a specified period of time divided by the total number of people in the population at that time; and is generally multiplied by 100.

¹ The data presented in the tables are the substances included in the country's survey, and are a subset of the substances suggested by the MEM.



INCIDENCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL POPULATION

Year of Last Survey: 2008	Target population of the study: Secondary School					
	Representative sample: Y					
	Last 12 months (percentage)			Last 30 days (percentage)		
Type of drug	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Alcohol	33.7	30.2	31.9	14.5	13.7	14.1
Tobacco	3.5	1.9	2.6	1.1	0.8	0.9
Solvents or inhalants	1.3	2.1	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Marijuana	6.9	3.2	5.0	3.8	0.9	2.3
Cocaine HCL	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Crack	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tranquilizers / Sedatives/ Depressants	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.5
Ecstasy (MDMA)	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2
Other Stimulants	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.3

Note: Rate of incidence of drug use is defined as the number of people who began to use a drug during a specified period of time (a year or a month) divided by the number of people who are at risk of using a specific drug for the first time. The “at-risk population” is the total population under study minus those persons who have used drugs prior to the specified time period.

The country indicates that it is unable to provide data for the number of persons who are drug abusers and dependents in relation to the number of users and total population surveyed, as it does not make a distinction between abuse and dependence.

The country reports the following data on age of first use of drugs among teenagers, based on the 2008 secondary school survey:

Type of drug	2008	
	(2)	(3)
Alcohol	11.4	12.0
Tobacco	11.3	11.0
Solvents or inhalants	10.4	11.0
Marijuana	13.3	14.0
Cocaine HCl	12.7	13.0
Crack	12.7	13.0
Ecstasy	11.3	12.0

(2) average age of first use / (3) median age of first use

The Bahamas reports that the number of youths ages 11-19, who perceive drug use as being harmful to their health and well-being from studies on school population, is captured in the following table:



Category	% of those surveyed who believe that persons who engage in the following activities are at great risk (or who think that it is very harmful):
Occasionally smoke cigarettes	34.6
Often smoke cigarettes	67.4
Often drink alcoholic beverages	51.5
Get drunk	64.4
Occasionally take tranquilizers/stimulants for non-medicinal purposes	56.3
Often take tranquilizers/stimulants for non-medicinal purposes	67.0
Occasionally inhale solvents	42.0
Often inhale solvents	60.5
Occasionally smoke marijuana	47.4
Often smoke marijuana	70.0
Occasionally take cocaine HCl or crack	65.5
Often take cocaine HCl or crack	77.3
Occasionally take ecstasy	49.7
Often take ecstasy	61.8

The Bahamas does not maintain records on alcohol and/or drug-related traffic accidents, nor on alcohol and/or drug-related accidents in the workplace. There are no established guidelines, norms or regulations on prevention activities relating to alcohol and drug-related accidents.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production

The Bahamas reports that it does not have significant cultivated areas of cannabis crops. The Bahamas does not have a formal eradication program for cannabis crops. However, the country reports that it carries out manual eradication activities.

The Bahamas reports that no illicit laboratories for organic or synthetic drugs have been found in the country.



B. Control of Pharmaceutical Products

All pharmaceutical products listed in the international conventions are controlled in The Bahamas. The country has the following legislation in place to control pharmaceuticals: The Pharmacy Act of The Bahamas (2009), the Dangerous Drugs Act (2000) and the Precursor Chemical Act (2007).

The Bahamas National Drug Agency (BNDA) and the Pharmacy Council of The Bahamas are the competent authorities responsible for coordinating activities related to the control of pharmaceutical products. Within the health care sector, these responsibilities include register control, monitoring distribution, control and monitoring of prescriptions, inspections, administrative sanctions, and transfer of unusual cases detected by administrative authorities to judicial authorities. Private sector responsibilities include import/export control, register control, manufacturing control, monitoring distribution, inspections, administrative sanctions, registry of licenses, registry of quantities of pharmaceutical products sold or manufactured and free trade zone control.

The Bahamas has an integrated procedure in place to monitor and prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products, whose formula contains one or more controlled substance, in accordance with relevant international conventions. The BNDA has the mandate to collect and audit all records from wholesalers, importers and retailers of all controlled substances.

The Bahamas has a regulatory/administrative system for the control of pharmaceutical products that includes inspectors and investigators. Currently, the BNDA officers assist law enforcement in the inspection and investigation of all matters. The new Pharmacy Act empowers the appointment of statutory inspectors that are government employees. The country reports that basic training has been provided to public and private sector officials responsible for the control and handling of pharmaceutical products.

The country has a mechanism through which members of the health sector can share information with law enforcement or judicial authorities to report and prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products and apply sanctions. The health sector can report any irregularities or suspicious activities via the BNDA or directly to law enforcement.

The country reports that it does not have an automated system to compile information on administrative and regulatory activities related to controlled pharmaceutical products and related sanctions, as it records information manually.



Administrative and Regulatory Activities Related to Controlled Pharmaceutical Products

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Regulated Activities				
Number of licenses issued to:				
Importers	10	10	12	14
Number of permits issued for:				
Importation	129	131	140	142
Regulated Entities				
Number of inspections conducted of:				
Pharmacies	13	17	15	23
Importers	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	4	7

* The country indicates that the importers and distributors are similar terms in The Bahamas.

The Bahamas’ national laws provide for the imposition of penal sanctions for the illicit production, diversion and illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products. Penal sanctions for these offenses include five years incarceration and up to US \$25,000 fines. The country states that no sanctions have been imposed because the Pharmacy Act (May 2009) is a relatively new piece of legislation. The country reported that there were no penal sanctions applied during the years 2006-2009.

The Bahamas informs that no pharmaceutical products were seized or disposed of during the period 2006-2009.

C. Control of Chemical Substances

The Chemical Precursor Act of 2007 is the legislation in place for the control of chemical substances, in accordance with international conventions. All chemical substances listed in the international conventions are controlled in The Bahamas.

The country reports there is no mechanism through which the institutions responsible for preventing or imposing sanctions for the diversion of controlled chemical substances can communicate and share information.

The Department of Environmental Health and The Bahamas National Drug Agency, the Office of the Attorney General, and The Bahamas Customs Department are the national authorities responsible for law and regulation enforcement for the control of chemical substances in administrative, judicial and customs areas respectively.

Actions carried out by The Bahamas to control the diversion of chemical substances include a national registry of licensees which is the responsibility of the Business License Registrar, import and export control and inspections, which fall under the responsibility of The Bahamas National Drug Agency and The Bahamas Customs, and pre-notifications.



The country does not carry out license control (manufacture, distribution), transaction audits, control of distribution, control of the final commercialization, transport control or imposition of sanctions. The country reports there is no regulatory or administrative system for the control of chemical substances that includes inspectors or investigators. The Bahamas does not offer training courses for administrative, police or customs officers in the control of the diversion of chemical substances.

The country does not have an automated information management system to facilitate the secure and efficient handling of information on the control of the diversion of chemical substances.

The Bahamas' national laws provide for the imposition of penal sanctions for the illicit production, diversion and illicit trafficking of controlled chemical substances. Penal sanctions for illicit production, diversion and illicit trafficking of controlled chemical substances include five years incarceration and various fines. The country reports that, since the law was passed in 2007, no penal sanctions were applied during the evaluation period.

The Bahamas does not produce or export controlled chemical substances. Any precursor chemicals transiting The Bahamas are reported to Customs Officials. This information however, is not kept in a form where it can be readily accessed.

The Bahamas imports chemical substances. The country states that data on controlled chemical substance imports, or pre-export notifications are not available. The country reports that presently, there is no mechanism in place to process pre-export notifications. Currently, the closest procedure to the pre-export notification being utilized is the Export Entry Forms (Forms C-29 & C-30) that are manually prepared prior to processing.

The country has a computerized information system to process pre-export notifications. This information however, is not kept in a form where it can be readily or easily accessed. Records regarding chemical imports are computerized, but are not kept as prescribed on the pre-export notification form.

The Bahamas indicates that no chemicals were seized or disposed of during 2006-2009.



IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

The Bahamas provides the following information on the quantities of illicit drugs forfeited to law enforcement agencies during the years 2006-2009.

Type of Illicit Drugs	Unit of Measure	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cocaine HCl	kg	1,222.13	718.55	2,489.17	1,911.93
Cannabis plants	units	34,454	194,864	8,328	11,374
Leaf Cannabis (grass)	kg	5,326.89	3,124.51	3,731.87	6,010.90
Cannabis Resin (hashish)	gr	0	85.05	228.15	0
MDMA (Ecstasy) and derivatives	tablets	5	0	19	160

The Bahamas informs the following data regarding persons formally charged with illicit drug trafficking: 85 persons in 2006, 110 persons in 2007, 85 persons in 2008 and 83 persons in 2009. The country did not provide information on the number of persons convicted of illicit drug trafficking.

The country provides the following data on public officials formally charged with offenses related to illicit drug trafficking: 3 public officials in 2006, 7 public officials in 2007, 1 public official in 2008 and 6 public officials in 2009. However, no data was reported on the number of public officials convicted of offenses related to illicit drug trafficking.

The Bahamas has laws criminalizing the illicit possession of drugs (Dangerous Drugs Act Chapter 228). The country reports that it does not make a distinction between the possession of drugs for personal consumption and possession for the purpose of trafficking, and states that in accordance with the Dangerous Drugs Act Chapter 228, persons are charged based on the quantity of drugs in their possession at the time of arrest.

The country reports the following number of persons formally charged with illicit drug possession: 1,219 persons in 2006, 1,343 persons in 2007, 1,158 persons in 2008 and 1,079 persons in 2009. No information is available on the number of persons convicted of this offense.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Royal Bahamas Defense Force and The Bahamas Customs Department are the national authorities responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking. The Central Intelligence Bureau of the Royal Bahamas Police Force has a mechanism to facilitate the timely exchange of information and collaboration between national authorities responsible for the control of illicit drug trafficking.

The Bahamas developed specialized training courses in Intelligence Gathering, Dangerous Drug Investigations and Dangerous Drugs to address illicit drug trafficking for law enforcement and



customs officers. No courses were offered for prosecutors or the judiciary during the evaluation period, 2007-2009.

The Bahamas has implemented the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code in all of the Bahamian Ports. Apart from the ISPS, the country has other port security programs. Each Port receiving ships from outside of the country is manned by officers of The Bahamas Customs Department who are responsible for inspection. The Port Department, along with the Royal Bahamas Defense Force, the Royal Bahamas Police Force and The Bahamas Customs, are the entities responsible for coordinating the implementation of the programs of counter-drug port security.

The country does not use a common interagency database or mutual access to databases to gather, analyze, exchange and share information and intelligence among the national and public entities involved in counter drug control activities in ports. In this regard, the country uses standing interagency task forces, review of manifests and other documents for targeting purposes, regular interagency meetings, informants, shipping documents, and law enforcement and other agencies in other countries.

The country has a methodology to determine which vessels, cargo or containers should undergo a more complete inspection or examination in person. The country reports that it does not have an automated system for the timely exchange of information among relevant agencies.

The Bahamas carries out maritime counterdrug detection, monitoring and interdiction activities through the Royal Bahamas Defense Force and the Royal Bahamas Police Force who are charged with this responsibility. The following national agencies are involved in monitoring and interdiction activities, both as coordinators and participants: The National Police, the Navy (Royal Bahamas Defense Force). The US Coast Guard and Drug Enforcement Agency also supports The Bahamas for monitoring and interdiction.

The Bahamas carries out aerial interdiction for illicit drug trafficking activities. The Royal Bahamas Defense Force and the Royal Bahamas Police Force, work closely with the United States Coast Guard, and the Drug Enforcement Agency (OPBAT) in carrying out aerial interdiction to prevent illicit drug trafficking activities.

The following entities are in charge of coordinating surveillance and aerial interdiction operations:

Entities	Monitoring		Interdiction	
	Coordinator	Participant	Coordinator	Participant
National Police	X	X	X	X
Coast Guard (US)	X	---	---	---
Navy (Royal Bahamas Defense Force)	X	X	X	X
United States Coast Guard and Drug Enforcement Agency	X	X	X	X



During the years 2006-2009, the country carried out aerial anti-drug interdiction operations involving the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands, which totalled 14 operations in 2006, 17 operations in 2007, 38 operations in 2008 and 17 operations in 2009.

The country reported the following number of anti-drug aerial interdiction operations carried out by national authorities and the number of aircrafts seized during the years 2006-2009:

2006		2007		2008		2009	
Number of operations	Number of aircraft seized	Number of operations	Number of aircraft seized	Number of operations	Number of aircraft seized	Number of operations	Number of aircraft seized
14	1	17	0	38	0	0	0

The Bahamas reports that it has legislation in place to control the sale of drugs via the Internet. The Pharmacy Act of The Bahamas came into force 21 May 2009. The Act provides for the regulation and control of the practice of pharmacy and for the registration and licensing of persons qualified to practice pharmacy. Article 25 of the Act specifically prohibits any / all sale of drugs via the Internet.

The country informs that the functions and responsibilities of the authorities involved in preventing the sale of drugs over the Internet have been defined. These responsibilities are carried out by The Bahamas National Drug Agency (BNDA) and the Pharmacy Council of The Bahamas.

The responsible institutions have procedures, investigation techniques, training and equipment to detect suspicious transactions or diversion of drugs through the Internet. The BNDA uses the facilities and expertise of the Cyber Crimes Unit of the Police Force. The Royal Bahamas Police Force coordinates the procedures and investigation techniques, while The Bahamas National Drug Agency acts as the supporting authority for each of these actions.

CICAD with the aid of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, held a Workshop on sale of drugs via the Internet in Nassau in 2009. The Bahamas was able to build capacity in this area by having ten (10) participants at that workshop from the following agencies: The Bahamas National Drug Council, The Bahamas Customs, Royal Bahamas Police Force, National Anti-Drug Secretariat and The Bahamas National Anti-Drug Agency.

No activities or programs have been carried out to increase awareness among judicial and postal authorities, regarding the illicit sale of drugs through the Internet. No mechanism has been established for citizens to report the illicit sale of drugs through the Internet. The sale of drugs via the Internet is a phenomenon that has not yet been detected in The Bahamas.

B. Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials

The Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Ministry of National Security, and the Customs Department are the official entities in the country that regulate and authorize activities for firearms,



ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Current laws establish administrative controls for the manufacture, importation, exportation, transit, purchase, sale, transfer, carrying and storage, shipment of firearms, explosives and other related materials. The country reports that the issuance of marking, marketing and transport licenses/permits are not applicable. National law does not require that firearms be marked at the time of manufacture, for their importation, nor for official use after confiscation or forfeiture.

The Firearms Act Ch 213 and the Explosives Act Ch 215 are the laws that criminalize the trafficking in and illicit production of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Under the Firearms Act Ch 213, the sanction for non-compliance relating to firearms and ammunition is imprisonment of up to 5 years on summary conviction and up to ten years on conviction by indictment; under the Explosives Act Ch 215 the sanction for non-compliance related to explosives is imprisonment of no less than 3 months. The country reports that it has administrative controls that regulate transactions and transfer of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials between legal entities.

The Bahamas has a mechanism for information exchange and cooperation between national institutions and hemispheric institutions regarding activities for control of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

During the years 2006-2009, there have been no cases when the entrance of a shipment of firearms, ammunition, explosives or other related materials has not been authorized due to the absence of the necessary licenses or permits.

There is no database or national registry of the importation, exportation, and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

The country reports that the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and the AS400 system are the database systems used to register the confiscation of firearms and ammunition. These records are kept indefinitely. The country indicates that no registry is kept on explosives and other related materials.

The country provides the following information regarding the quantity of firearms and ammunition, seized in narcotrafficking cases during the years 2006-2009. There were no explosives or other related materials seized during these years.

Quantities Seized in Narcotrafficking Cases		
Year	Firearms	Ammunition
2006	38	575
2007	29	1,027
2008	36	2,862
2009	63	2,445



No information was provided for quantities of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials forfeited in narco-trafficking cases for the years 2006-2009.

The Bahamas provides the following information on the quantity of firearms and ammunition seized in relation to the number of arrests for narco-trafficking:

Year	Number of Arrests	Quantity of Firearms	Quantity of Ammunition	Number of Operations
2006	53	26	567	27
2007	29	18	984	18
2008	76	34	2,808	35
2009	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

The country indicates the following statistical information on quantities of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials forfeited in relation to the number of arrests for narco-trafficking.

Year	Number of Arrests	Quantity of Firearms	Quantity of Ammunition	Quantity of Explosives	Quantity of other Related Materials	Number of Operations
2006	55	49	865	0	0	Not Available
2007	29	51	2,539	0	0	Not Available
2008	76	45	2,967	0	0	Not Available
2009	63	63	2,445	0	0	Not Available

Information regarding how seized firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials are disposed is unavailable.

The country provides the following information regarding the type of firearms seized from persons formally charged with illicit activities related to firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, linked with narco-trafficking: 10 long guns for 2006; 0 for 2007; 4 for 2008; 19 short guns for 2006; 19 for 2007; and 29 for 2008. Information is not available for 2009. No information was provided for explosive materials or ammunition.

No information was provided on the number of investigations initiated in the country as a result of a firearms trace request from another country. The country reports that there were no international firearms trace requests received or completed.

C. Money Laundering

Sections 40, 41 and 42 of the Proceeds of Crime Act, and Chapter 93 of the Statute Law of The Bahamas (2000) are the current national laws that criminalize money laundering and related



crimes. The country provides Section 45 of the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 93 as the sanctions for non-compliance.

The Bahamas has established the following crimes as predicate offences for money laundering: drug trafficking or a relevant offense punishable under a corresponding law, and includes entering into or being otherwise concerned in, whether in The Bahamas or elsewhere, a drug trafficking arrangement.

It is not necessary in The Bahamas for a person to be convicted of a predicate offence in order to be convicted of laundering the proceeds of that offence. Sections 40, 41 and 42 of the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 93, create a separate offence for money laundering.

Undercover investigations, electronic surveillance, use of informants, controlled deliveries, sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses and other special investigative techniques are all permitted under national law in money laundering investigations.

The Bahamas belongs to the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). The most recent evaluation was carried out in 2007 with follow up reports.

Under the Financial Transactions Reporting Act, Chapter 368, 29th December 2000, the following sectors and activities are obligated to submit suspicious transaction reports to prevent money laundering: the banking sector, offshore banks, currency exchange sector, stock exchanges, insurance sector, transfer of funds, cash or valuables, real estate, lawyers, notaries, accountants, casinos and gambling, and financial and corporate services providers.

No sectors or activities are subject to the obligation to submit objective information reports to prevent money laundering. The country reports that The Bahamas' Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Regime is based upon Suspicious Transaction Reporting.

The Bahamas has an autonomous Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) which has an annual budget. The FIU is a member of the Egmont Group and has access to the Egmont Group's secure network. The country provides the following information on the number of information requests received and responses sent through this secure network:

Year	Information Requests Received	Responses to Information Requests Sent
2006	66	66
2007	66	66
2008	108	108
2009	75	68

The country reports that there are no limitations on obtaining financial documents and registers in money laundering cases. However, limitations do exist on obtaining financial documents in money laundering cases subject to secrecy, confidentiality or reserve agreements.



The country reports that, as it relates to requests from countries with whom The Bahamas does not have a mutual legal assistance treaty with or a tax information exchange agreement, The Bahamas is not able to render assistance in taxation offences. As it relates to requests from countries with which The Bahamas has a mutual legal assistance treaty, The Bahamas is able to render assistance where the request relates to taxation as long as the matter also involves fraud.

The Confiscated Assets Fund, under the authority of the Minister of Finance, is the entity for the management and disposition of assets seized and forfeited for illicit drug trafficking and money laundering offences. The Bahamas reports that it does not have specific procedures regarding the management of assets confiscated as a result of money laundering convictions relating to illicit drug trafficking.

The country reports the following number of investigations initiated through a financial intelligence report submitted by the FIU during the years 2006-2009: 42 in 2006, 30 in 2007, 28 in 2008, and 54 in 2009.

During the years 2006-2009, no penal proceedings were initiated for money laundering offences, and no persons were formally charged or convicted in investigations initiated during these years.

D. Judicial Cooperation

Under national laws, extradition is possible for drug trafficking and money laundering crimes, including extradition of nationals. The competent authority to receive, respond to and transmit extradition requests is the Minister of Foreign Affairs. National laws do not provide for persons whose extradition has been denied in a drug trafficking or money laundering case, to be tried for the offence in The Bahamas.

National laws permit the provision of reciprocal judicial assistance in taking evidence or statements from persons; effecting service of judicial documents; executing searches and seizures; examining objects and sites; providing information and evidentiary items; providing original or certified copies of relevant documents and records, including bank, financial, corporate or business records; and identifying or tracing proceeds, property, instrumentalities or other items for evidentiary purposes.

The Bahamas uses secure technological resources to facilitate communication among authorities directing criminal investigations. The country reports that bank secrecy or other confidentiality laws are not an obstacle to providing reciprocal judicial assistance.

National laws permit granting a controlled delivery request; while penal and procedural laws exist that permit the use of controlled delivery.

The Bahamas has a mechanism to recover assets forfeited abroad.



The country reports no active extradition requests made regarding illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases during 2006-2009. The country reports that the number of passive extradition requests answered regarding illicit drug trafficking was 1 in 2006; 0 in 2007; 2 in 2008; and 1 in 2009. For money laundering cases, the country responded to 1 in 2009.

The country reports that there were no requests for reciprocal judicial assistance made or answered regarding illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases during 2006-2009.



EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

In the area of institutional strengthening, CICAD takes note that during the evaluation period, The Bahamas had a National Anti-Drug Plan including an assigned budget. Moreover, the country has a national anti-drug authority, the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS), that coordinates the implementation of national drug policy with respective public and private entities.

Regarding international conventions, CICAD recognizes that The Bahamas has ratified all of the international instruments recommended by the MEM regarding drug control and related criminal activities and enacted legislation in accordance with international conventions.

With reference to a national information system, CICAD takes note that The Bahamas has undertaken studies related to demand reduction and collects data on supply reduction. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country has a centralized office that organizes, carries out studies, complies and coordinates drug related statistics.

In the area of demand reduction, CICAD notes that The Bahamas is carrying out drug abuse prevention programs for pre-school, primary, secondary and community populations and training courses were offered to professionals in drug prevention during the reporting period. However, CICAD observes the non-implementation of prevention programs for university students, workers in the workplace or incarcerated individuals. CICAD notes that the country has not undertaken evaluations of its ongoing drug abuse prevention programs.

Regarding treatment, CICAD observes that Primary Health Care facilities perform specific activities to address problems associated with drug use and the country has four centers offering aftercare programs. However, CICAD notes the lack of official operating standards for specialized treatment facilities that provide treatment services for persons with problems associated with drug use. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country does not have an official licensing procedure to authorize the operation of specialized facilities that provide treatment services, and has partial data on the number of cases treated in drug use treatment facilities.

With reference to statistics on consumption, CICAD views with satisfaction that The Bahamas conducted a secondary school drug use survey in 2008. However, CICAD notes that no general population survey on the magnitude of drug use has been conducted and data are not collected on alcohol and other drug related traffic accidents or accidents in the work place.

In the area of supply reduction, regarding drug production, CICAD takes note that The Bahamas carries out manual eradication activities for cannabis crops, and notes that the country has not discovered any illicit laboratories for organic or synthetic drugs.

CICAD recognizes that The Bahamas approved the Pharmacy Act in May 2009, a new legislation to control pharmaceutical products. This legislation allows the imposition of penal sanctions and creates a legal framework in accordance with international conventions to control pharmaceutical products. CICAD notes that during the evaluation period, 2007-2009, The Bahamas conducted



basic training sessions for public and private sector officials responsible for the control and handling of pharmaceutical products.

CICAD notes that the country does not have an automated system to compile information on administrative and regulatory activities related to controlled pharmaceutical products and related sanctions.

CICAD observes that The Bahamas has legislation for the control of chemical substances. However, CICAD views with concern that the country's regulatory system applicable to controlled chemical substances does not incorporate all the control measures internationally recommended.

CICAD also views with concern that The Bahamas does not collect data on imports of chemical substances, nor does the country have a mechanism to process pre-export notifications.

CICAD takes note that The Bahamas does not offer training courses for administrative, police or customs officers in the control of chemical substances diversion.

In the area of control measures, particularly illicit drug trafficking, CICAD acknowledges the passing of the Pharmacy Act (2009), which prohibits any/all sale of drugs via the Internet and the training conducted for relevant stakeholders on the sale of drugs via the Internet. However, CICAD observes that no data was available on persons convicted for illicit drug possession or on the number of public officials convicted of offenses related to illicit drug trafficking.

With reference to controls for firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, CICAD observes that The Bahamas' legislation does not require the marking of firearms, for their importation and official use after confiscation or forfeiture. CICAD also views that the country does not have a national registry for the importation, exportation, and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

CICAD acknowledges that The Bahamas has legislation that criminalizes money laundering and related crimes. CICAD observes that The Bahamas has an entity for the management and disposition of assets seized and forfeited for illicit drug trafficking and money laundering offences. However, CICAD notes that there are no sectors or activities subject to the obligation to submit objective information reports to prevent money laundering.

In the area of judicial cooperation, CICAD observes that The Bahamas has a legal framework that permits extradition for drug trafficking and money laundering crimes, including extradition of nationals. CICAD notes that legislation in the country permits provision of reciprocal judicial assistance. CICAD also notes that the country has a mechanism to recover assets forfeited abroad.

CICAD recognizes The Bahamas' efforts in the context of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and encourages the country to continue to participate actively in the process.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are assigned to The Bahamas in order to assist the country in strengthening its policy to combat the problem of drugs and related activities and increase multilateral cooperation in the Hemisphere:

DEMAND REDUCTION

1. EVALUATE EXISTING DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.
2. IMPLEMENT DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.
3. ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL REGISTER FOR THE NUMBER OF CASES TREATED IN DRUG TREATMENT FACILITIES.
4. ESTABLISH OFFICIAL OPERATING STANDARDS FOR SPECIALIZED TREATMENT FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.
5. CONDUCT A SURVEY ON THE MAGNITUDE OF DRUG USE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

6. EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF TRAINING COURSES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HANDLING AND CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.
7. IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM TO COMPILE INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.
8. IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO FACILITATE THE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

CONTROL MEASURES

9. ESTABLISH LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE MARKING OF FIREARMS FOR THEIR IMPORTATION AND OFFICIAL USE AFTER CONFISCATION OR FORFEITURE.
10. ESTABLISH A NATIONAL REGISTRY FOR THE IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS.
11. REQUIRE REGULATED SECTORS AND ACTIVITIES TO SUBMIT OBJECTIVE INFORMATION REPORTS TO PREVENT MONEY LAUNDERING.

Antigua
and Barbuda Argentina
The Bahamas Barbados Belize Bolivia
Canada Chile Colombia Costa Rica Dominica
Republic Ecuador El Salvador Grenada Guatemala
Honduras Jamaica Mexico Nicaragua Panama Paraguay
and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Tobago United States of America Uruguay Venezuela

Bahamas Barbados Belize Bolivia Brazil Canada
and Barbuda
Republic Ecuador El Salvador Grenada Guat
The Bahamas Bar
Panama Paraguay Peru Saint Kitts and
Brazil Canada Chile
Trinidad and Tobago United States of
Dominica Dominican Repu

Bahamas Barbados Belize Bolivia Braz
Grenada Guatemala Guyana Ha
El Salvador Grenada Guatemala Guy
Nicaragua Panama Paraguay Peru
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Su
Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vin
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Su
Uruguay Venezuela Antigua and Bar
States of America Uruguay Venezue

Costa Rica Dominica Dominican Re
Bahamas Barbados Belize Bolivia Brazil Ca
Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Gr
Nicaragua Panama Paraguay Peru
Tobago United States of America U
Jamaica Mexico Nicaragua Panama Paragu
Canada Chile Colombia Costa Rica
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Tr
Uruguay Venezuela Antigua and Barbuda Arg
Brazil Canada Chile Colombia Costa Rica Domi
Grenada Guyana Haiti Honduras Jam
Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincen
United States of America Uruguay Venezue

Belize Bolivia Brazil Canada
Chile Colombia Costa Rica
Salvador Grenada Guatemala Guyana Haiti Hondur
Peru Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname
Tobago United States of America Uruguay Venezuela
Ecuador El Salvador Grenada Guatemala Guyana
Panama Paraguay Peru Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Tr

Barbuda Argentina The Bahamas Barbados Bel
Rico Dominica Dominican Republic Ecuador El
Honduras Jamaica Mexico Nicaragua Panama
Suriname Trinidad and Tobago Uni
Luisa Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Su
of America Uruguay Venezuela Antigua
Barbados Belize Bolivia Brazil Canada
Dominican Republic Ecuador El
Haiti Honduras Jamaica Mexi

Panama Paraguay Peru Saint Kitts and Nevis
Grenadines Suriname Tr
and Barbuda Argentina The Bahamas Barbados Belize
Chile Colombia Costa Rica Dominica Dominican R
El Salvador Grenada Guatemala Guyana Hai
Jamaica Mexico Nicaragua Panama Par
Peru Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint



Organization of American States

1889 F Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202) 458 3000

www.cicad.oas.org

ISBN 978-0-8270-5545-2