



I. INSTITUTION BUILDING / NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

In the First Evaluation Round 1999 - 2000, it was recommended that the country continue actions towards fully enacting the National Anti-Drug Plan. The Bahamas has completed preparation of this National Plan, but the head of government has not yet approved it.

At present, the central coordinating authority for anti-drug activities has an integrated budget, whose sources are: government allocations, autofinancing by law and civil society allocations. The country has not provided information on the size of the budget.

The Bahamas has not ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters nor the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.

It has national laws in accordance with the international conventions and has a follow-up mechanism in place to assess the effective application of the mandates established in the international conventions through administrative procedures in the government ministries or departments.

The Bahamas has signed agreements with several countries in the context of United Nations and Organization of American States international conventions.

The Bahamas does not have a system that centralizes uniform and up-to-date statistical data on drugs and related issues. It periodically reports to international organizations, specifically the United Nations. The country indicated that it had not been able to establish the system referenced above due to technical difficulties.

Information on the drug problem is provided to schools, universities, research institutes and the mass media. There are publications produced by the agencies involved in the drug problem. The Bahamas indicated that it distributes information on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. APPROVE THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN AND THE BUDGET FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.**
- 2. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999 – 2000 TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.**
- 3. RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS.**
- 4. CREATE A DRUGS OBSERVATORY THAT WOULD COMPILE AND ANALYZE STATISTICS AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION.**

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug abuse prevention programs have been implemented for key populations, such as students, covering 95% of primary schools, 80% of secondary schools and 10% of colleges. The country indicated that it conducts community programs reaching 30,000 adults, as well as prevention programs for prisoners. The Bahamas does not mention if it has specific programs for parents, women and prison guards. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)



views as positive the actions taken in drug abuse prevention programs targeting key sectors of the population and encourages the country to continue with this major effort.

Training programs were conducted for prevention practitioners, targeting teachers, community leaders, youth leaders, social workers, health workers, police officers and journalists. In addition, The Bahamas has trained personnel through courses at the University of the West Indies related to addictions, prevention and regional treatment.

Prevention programs have not been evaluated and no research on the impact of those programs has been conducted.

The Bahamas has four public treatment centers functioning for outpatients and inpatients, which provide various forms of care, even though no minimum standards of care for drug abuse treatment have been established. It has not evaluated treatment and rehabilitation programs.

The Bahamas has not conducted updated studies to estimate the prevalence of drug use among the general population. Nor has it conducted studies on the percentage of secondary school students who perceive drug use as being harmful to their health and well-being. Nevertheless, the country reports that there have been recent changes in drug use and point to the use of ecstasy as a new trend.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. EVALUATE DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS.**
- 2. ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR TREATMENT OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY DRUG ABUSE.**
- 3. CONDUCT A STUDY TO ESTIMATE THE PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.**

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

The Bahamas reported that it is not and has not been a producer of raw materials and illicit drugs; however, 10,207 marijuana plants in 3 small fields were destroyed in 2001. Regarding the year 2002, 110 marijuana plants were destroyed. No illicit laboratories or indoor cultivation have been detected.

B. Supply Reduction and Control of Pharmaceutical Products / Chemical Substances

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance, through The Bahamas Customs Department, has principal responsibility for controlling and preventing the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. The mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of the control of pharmaceuticals exists through the number of import certificates and licenses issued, number of export licenses received, inventory reports, exchange of information with other countries and pre-export and import notifications. The country does not have a formal mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of the control of controlled chemical substances.

The Bahamas reports that it faces two obstacles to full compliance with its mission to prevent and control the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances.



They are the weak adherence to regulations and the lack of examinations of shipments of goods for exportation.

The country reports that it has established an exchange of minimal information between the two ministries responsible for the control of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, which is insufficient to deal with such areas. However, information is shared with other countries on preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

In the Bahamas, there have been no seizures of controlled chemical substances.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR ENSURING EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.**

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

Possession of illicit drugs for personal use and for illicit trafficking is a crime. The Bahamas did not report on the criteria it applies for arresting individuals in either case. In 2000, a total of 1,436 persons were charged for illicit drug possession and 100 persons were charged for illicit drug trafficking. In 2001, 1,502 persons were charged for illicit drug trafficking and in 2002, 1,372 persons were charged for the same offense. The country did not supply data on convictions.

The Bahamas reported that several institutions exchange operational information to control illicit drug trafficking. The country does not have a formal mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of those actions.

Regarding the quantities of drugs seized, The Bahamas reported as follows:

Type of Drug	Unit of Measurement	Quantity		
		2000	2001	2002 ⁽¹⁾
Cocaine	lbs.			3,372
Crack cocaine	lbs.	6,115	3,328	
Cannabis plants	plants	1,466	10,207	
Cannabis resin (hashish)	lbs.	1	31.36	
Hashish oil (liquid Cannabis)	lbs.	62		17,586
MDMA (Ecstasy)	lbs.	140	0.03	.06

(1) The information is updated to October 31, 2002.

In the year 2000, there were 167 persons arrested for illicit drug trafficking, of which 100 were tried. This could be considered as an important result of the efforts of The Bahamas judicial system.

The country reports that seized illegal drugs, such as crack cocaine, marihuana plants, hashish (resin and liquid) and MDMA (Ecstasy) are incinerated.



B. Firearms and Ammunition

Under the recent legislation passed in The Bahamas, the Firearms Act and the Explosives Act provide the legal framework for the seizure and confiscation of firearms and similar materials. Two-year sentences are envisaged for persons breaking these laws. Administrative controls are based on the aforementioned legislation and on the Ministry of Finance's Customs regulations.

Regarding the number of persons arrested and charged with illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition, the country reports the following:

Number of Persons Arrested		
2000	2001	2002
265	230	

Number of Persons Charged		
2000	2001	2002 ⁽¹⁾
222	191	89

(1) This information is up to September 25, 2002.

The country has not provided information on the number of people convicted of illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition.

In enforcing the Firearms Act, The Bahamas inspects shipments of firearms and ammunition for import, export or transit. The Royal Police is the authority responsible for exchanges of information and cooperation with agencies in other countries. This work is carried out through joint operations and training.

The Bahamas reports the following quantities of firearms and ammunition confiscated in illicit trafficking cases:

Types of firearm / Ammunition	Quantity confiscated 2000	Quantity confiscated 2001	Quantity confiscated 2002 ⁽¹⁾
Pistols	134	127	75
Rifles	8	6	1
Shotguns	17	14	16
TOTAL	159	147	92
Ammunition	3,771	2,833	848

(1) This information is up to September 25, 2002.

The country has not provided information on the quantities of firearms and ammunition confiscated in relation to the number of arrests for illicit drug trafficking.

C. Money Laundering

The Proceeds of Crime Act of 2000 is in force in The Bahamas; it makes provision for up to 20 years imprisonment and unlimited fines to suppress the offense of money laundering. The Financial Transactions Reporting Act, which establishes administrative controls, provides for fines of US\$20,000 for individuals and US\$100,000 for corporations.



In 2000, there were 3 persons charged with money laundering, 4 persons were charged in 2001 and 2 persons in 2002. At present 1 person has been convicted.

Financial institutions are required to report suspicious transactions and there is the option that bank secrecy can be lifted. However, it does not provide information on the number of suspicious transactions reported and investigations carried out.

The value of property forfeited was US\$2.6 million in 2001. This went to the Confiscated Asset Fund of the Government of The Bahamas, which is administered by the Ministry of Finance. In 2002, 5 boats, 1 vehicle and US\$1,370,656.30 in currency were seized.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which is under the authority of the Attorney General's Office, was founded on December 29, 2000. The FIU is a member of the Egmont Group.

The Bahamas has received requests from 5 countries to freeze assets; it granted all of those requests. The FIU investigated 246 cases in 2001 and 18 in the first quarter of 2002.

The country received 8 requests to lift bank secrecy in 2000; there were 37 requests in 2001 and there were 4 in 2002, for a total of 49 requests from 19 countries during the evaluation period 2001 - 2002. The Bahamas did not indicate how many replies were sent.

The Bahamas trained 2 judges, 2 prosecutors and 1 administrative official in 2000; and 3 judges, 18 prosecutors and 3 administrative officials in 2001. The latter ones are from the FIU. It is interesting to note that The Bahamas significantly increased the number of judicial and administrative officials trained in money laundering control. CICAD finds the actions conducted by The Bahamas in this area to be positive.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. CREATE A NATIONAL REGISTRY ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND TRANSIT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.**

V. CONCLUSIONS

CICAD takes note that The Bahamas promotes prevention and supply reduction programmes through its coordinating authority located in the Ministry of National Security which operates with an integrated budget. The budget sources are: government allocation, autofinancing and civil society allocation. CICAD hopes that the National Anti-Drug Plan and the budget that will enable its full implementation will soon be approved.

CICAD values the efforts made in prevention programs geared toward key sectors of the population and encourages The Bahamas to continue this significant effort. It is hoped that the country would provide information on the impact of such programmes, especially developments in the school area.

The training of judicial and administrative staff participating in money laundering cases is seen as a strength of the country.

CICAD reiterates its concern that The Bahamas has not provided an adequate response for some of the indicators included in this evaluation process. This could skew the assessment of its progress in dealing with the drug problem.

CICAD urges The Bahamas to renew its commitment to the MEM process, as the fight against the drug problem in all of its manifestations is a shared problem for all countries in this Hemisphere.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. APPROVE THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN AND THE BUDGET FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.
2. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999 – 2000 TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.
3. RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS.
4. CREATE A DRUGS OBSERVATORY THAT WOULD COMPILE AND ANALYZE STATISTICS AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION.
5. EVALUATE DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS.
6. ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR TREATMENT OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY DRUG ABUSE.
7. CONDUCT A STUDY TO ESTIMATE THE PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.
8. DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.
9. CREATE A NATIONAL REGISTRY ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND TRANSIT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.



