



I. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING / NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

El Salvador has a National Anti-Drug Plan, which was approved on January 22, 2002, by the Central Coordinating Authority. The Plan covers demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and institutional strengthening and will be implemented during 2002 to 2008. There is a national coordinating authority, the Salvadoran Anti-Drug Commission, which has its own budget. The budget for 2002 is US\$ 459,195.00. The approval and implementing of the National Anti-Drug Plan fulfilled the recommendation from the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000 and is a step forward in the country's anti-drug effort.

El Salvador reports that it has signed, but not ratified, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the United Nations (UN) Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three related Protocols: 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, Components and Ammunition.

El Salvador reports that it has a centralized office – Salvadoran Drug Observatory – administered by the Salvadoran Anti-Drug Commission. The Observatory coordinates data collection among operational entities, maintain and update statistics, facilitate research in supply and demand reduction and disseminate information on the national counter drug efforts. The country utilizes the CICADs Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) and Uniform Statistical System on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) to report statistics. It also employs a variety of methods to transmit information on the drug problem to policy makers and the general public.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **RATIFY THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND THE THREE RELATED PROTOCOLS TO THE ABOVEMENTIONED UN CONVENTION.**
2. **REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ON CRIMINAL MATTERS.**

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

El Salvador reports that it is in the process of implementing a national demand reduction plan but there is no overall budget for this plan. Several key populations are targeted, within a national prevention system, including students at the elementary and high school levels, out-of-school youth, working children and the workplace, but does not include tertiary level students, street children, community programs for adults, women, indigenous groups and prison populations.

El Salvador reported that commencing in 2001 a private university, Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) has been offering a master's degree in Community Psychology, specializing in violence and drug dependency. In 2001 an impact evaluation of the Drug Abuse Evaluation Program (PEPAD) aimed at children and youths nationwide was conducted by the Youth and Family Services Division of the National Civil Police.

El Salvador has estimates on the prevalence of drug use among the general population and reports that, according to the Panama, Central America and the Dominican Republic (PACARDO) survey conducted in 2000 in middle schools, the average age of first use in El Salvador is thirteen (13) years. The country reports that the drugs used by the group within the average age of first use are tobacco, alcohol, tranquilizers, Cocaine, inhalants and amphetamines.



In October 2001, the SIDUC/OAS high school drug abuse survey was conducted, and the results are still being analyzed. The survey will assist in estimating what percentage of high school students perceive drug use as being harmful to health.

El Salvador reports that there is no estimate of illicit drug related morbidity among intravenous drug users. It further reports that there were 1,032 alcohol-related deaths in 2001. During the three-year period 1999-2001 there were three new drug substances and related trends observed. In 1999 the multiple use of "heroin and cocaine" and "marijuana and cocaine" was detected among young people ages 16 to 30. In 2000, the use of crack increased among youth from low-income families living in economically disadvantaged areas. Ecstasy began to appear in 2000 with isolated cases detected in patients served by the NGO, FUNDASALVA. This new drug modality has appeared in discotheques in wealthy areas and is used by young people in the upper middle class.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. EXTEND COVERAGE OF THE PREVENTION SYSTEM TO INCLUDE OTHER KEY POPULATIONS NOT PRESENTLY COVERED.**

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

El Salvador reports that the cultivation of marijuana was minimal: four has. in 2000 and two has. in 2001 were discovered and eradicated. Consequently there are no alternative development programs.

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

El Salvador reported that there were no seizures of pharmaceutical products or controlled chemical substances or illicit drug laboratories destroyed during the period of evaluation 2001 – 2002.

In El Salvador the Higher Council for Public Health (CSSP) and the Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police (PNC) are responsible for the importation and exportation and prevention of the diversion of both pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances. The country reports that there is a multi-agency mechanism consisting of joint forces and operations, joint training, interagency information systems/networks, and interagency communications system/networks for the exchange of operational information and collaboration among national authorities responsible for the control of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances. The entities responsible for sharing information on pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, respectively, with other countries are the Higher Council for Public Health and the Salvadoran Anti-Drug Commission.

El Salvador indicated that administrative sanctions are in place for the diversion of both pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances and 23 sanctions were issued for the former and 15 for the latter in 2001. There are provisions for penal and civil sanctions in accordance with international conventions; however to date no penal or civil sanctions have been imposed. The country reported that there were no pre-notifications issued or received during the last three years.



IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

El Salvador conducted several drug seizures of heroine, crack, and cannabis during 2000-2002.

Type of Drug	Unit of Measure	Quantity		
		2000	2001	2002
Heroin	Kg.	6.9	10.5	13
Cocaine base	Kg.	424	18	2,060
Crack	Kg.	7.7	6.7	24
Cannabis Plants	Plants	25,005	1,210	1,151
Cannabis Leaf	Kg.	455.7	378.6	543

Note: Data for 2002 includes all data from January to September.

The country reported that 755 people were arrested in 2000 for illicit drug trafficking, 732 in 2001 and 62 in 2002. In 2000, 345 people were tried for illicit drug trafficking, 362 in 2001, and 19 in 2002. In 2000, 31 people were convicted for illicit drug trafficking, 19 in 2001, and none in 2002. It further reported that while there was no specific law against illicit possession, this offense was determined by the discretion of the trial judge and the general rule applied was relative to the quantity possessed. Possession for personal use is not an offense.

During the period 2001-2002, El Salvador has made four requests for judicial cooperation regarding illicit drug trafficking to other countries, but has received only one reply. During the same period it received one request to which it has not replied. It has laws and regulations that criminalize acts of corruption in accordance with the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

El Salvador reports that there was a significant increase in drug trafficking into the country by land and sea. Crack has become the drug of common use among the lower economic sectors and the wider population, while ecstasy was being used by middle and upper class youths.

The country reports that traffickers were providing employment in the illicit trade both in urban and rural border areas and in the process creating an economic reliance on the drug trade. It reports that those who provide services are paid either in cash or profitable quantities of drugs to be retailed at street value.

The country reports that there was distinct infrastructure growth in rural border areas where elegant buildings/homes were being erected at costs far above the legitimate financial capacity of local communities. In addition, there has been a proliferation of crack houses in urban communities, thus increasing distribution and abuse.

El Salvador reports that the traffickers have also corrupted police and customs officials at border controls, which adversely limits the effectiveness of such controls.

El Salvador reports that it has taken affirmative measures to strengthen and improve interagency coordination among national operational entities to address cross border, aerial and maritime control. In 2001, the Salvadoran Anti-drug Commission established an inter-agency group, comprised of experts appointed by each entity involved in demand reduction and supply reduction. Through that group, it has been able to coordinate preventive activities in demand and supply reduction among government agencies, private institutions, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).



B. Firearms and Ammunitions

El Salvador reported that the Ministry of Defense and the National Civil Police are the entities responsible for the control and prevention of diversion of firearms and ammunition. The interagency information system/network is the mechanism that facilitates the exchange of information and collaboration among operational entities, namely, the Logistics Office of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Public Security, and the National Civil Police. The exchange of information is mandatory pursuant to Article 11 of the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Related Articles Control and Regulation Act.

The country reports that Penal Code Title XVII criminalizes the illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition. It further reports that there were no arrests or trials for the illicit trafficking of firearms or ammunition during the evaluation period 2001-2002.

El Salvador reported that the Firearms Act, Title V, Chapter IV establishes administrative controls and sanctions aimed at preventing the diversion of firearms and ammunition. According to Article 34 of the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Related Articles Control and Regulation Act, "to export or import firearms and other articles regulated by this Act, the interested parties must first submit to the Ministry of Defense a detailed list of the articles involved in the transaction and the name of the addressee and the sender, as appropriate, and must confirm that those firearms are not diverted to a third country"; in the case of firearms, the importer must submit them to the Ministry of Defense for the ballistic identification, as a prerequisite before display or sale.

In keeping with the provisions of the foregoing Articles, in El Salvador a license or permit is required for all exports or imports before authorization for shipment is given; it is issued by the Ministry of Defense, which is the responsible entity pursuant to the aforementioned Act. El Salvador also requires importing or transit countries to issue licenses or permits prior to authorizing embarkation of shipments of firearms and ammunitions to them.

El Salvador reported that there is a national computerized database that maintains records of importation, exportation, and in-transit movement of firearms and ammunition. The Ministry of Defense and National Civil Police are the authorities responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with other countries while joint forces and operations, joint training, an interagency information system/network and an interagency communication system/network are the means employed at the national level.

C. Money Laundering

El Salvador reported that Article 4 of the Anti-Money and Asset Laundering Act criminalizes money laundering and covers the full range of predicate offenses: illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of firearms, traffic of human beings, organ trafficking, prostitution, pornography, kidnapping, extortion, corruption, terrorism, fraud, and others. There are administrative controls to prevent money laundering but they do not include lawyers, notaries, or accountants. It is also mandatory that financial institutions and others responsible report suspicious transactions to the competent authorities. In addition, there is a mechanism established under the Office of the Vice President for the improvement of public accountability and for the prevention and sanctions against corruption by government officials as well as the civil society.

El Salvador has a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) whose specific responsibility is to analyze cases and report its findings. The FIU is situated in the Office of the Public Prosecutor. During the evaluation period 2001–2002 (February 15, 2002), a total of 148 suspicious transactions were reported and investigated, which directly resulted in charges brought against one person in 2002. The country further reported that during the evaluation period 2000-2002 a total of six people were arrested and tried for money laundering, but there were no convictions.



El Salvador reports that it made several requests to, and received replies from, a number of countries that provided bank documents to assist in money laundering investigations. It has also received four similar requests from another country and provided three replies.

The country reported that during the last three years 20 judges, 16 prosecutors, and 19 administrative officials were trained in money laundering.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Since the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism's (MEM) First Evaluation Round 1999-2000 El Salvador has made substantial progress in the execution of its national anti-drug effort.

The approval and implementation of its National Anti-Drug Plan, effective January 2002 – 2008 is a significant step forward in establishing a national coordinated approach in pursuing both demand and supply reduction programs and activities. The establishment of a National Drug Observatory, as well as the development of laws and regulations in accordance with international conventions for control of firearms and ammunitions, pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, and money laundering are central to the country's efforts in improving its infrastructural and administrative systems. The formation of an oversight multi-agency committee for the coordination and implementation of the National Anti-Drug Plan will assist in its effective execution.

Notwithstanding, the country has not yet ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, which was a recommendation from the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, nor the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its related Protocols. Thereby a void remains in this area. The detection of new trends of substance abuse (ecstasy) and the significant increase in drug trafficking into the country by land and by sea are being afforded special attention by law enforcement; however, no specific tangible results were reported. Therefore, there would seem to be a need for the strengthening of cross border and regional operational cooperation.

CICAD acknowledges the commitment demonstrated by El Salvador in improving its counter drug effort. It has fully, or partially, fulfilled all, but two of the recommendations from the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000. The country's commitment to the MEM further illustrates its dedication to improving and enhancing its national capacity and continuing to participate in areas of international cooperation and coordination.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION

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2. **REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ON CRIMINAL MATTERS.**
3. **EXTEND COVERAGE OF THE PREVENTION SYSTEM TO INCLUDE OTHER KEY POPULATIONS NOT PRESENTLY COVERED.**



