

Multilateral  
Evaluation  
Mechanism  
MEM

# Saint Lucia

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Organization of American States – **OAS**

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – **CICAD**

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Organización de los Estados Americanos – OEA  
Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organization of American States – OAS  
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD

Organização dos Estados Americanos – OEA  
Comissão Interamericana para o Controle do Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organisation des Etats Américains – OEA  
Commission Interaméricaine de Lutte Contre l'abus des Drogues – CICAD

## NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

Saint Lucia has a National Anti-Drug and Substance Abuse Strategy (NADSAS) approved by Cabinet, which covers the following three strategic programs: Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction, and Research and Information. It aims to strengthen the institutional capacity to design and implement policies and programs that discourage the initial use of drugs; facilitate effective treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of substance abuse users; suppress the flow of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances into and out of the island; and, prevent manufacturers and traffickers from benefiting from their illegal activities.

Saint Lucia's central coordinating authority established by Cabinet conclusion in 1999, is the Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat (SAACS) which coordinates all activities relating to the National Anti-Drug and Substance Abuse Strategy. It is financed through the national budget.

Saint Lucia has ratified the United Nations Convention of 1961. It has acceded to the United Nations Convention of 1988. It has not signed the United Nations Convention of 1971. It has not ratified the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. It has not signed the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters

Furthermore, it has national laws and regulations with respect to the issue of drugs in accordance with international conventions. It has specific legislation regarding money laundering and firearms in accordance with CICAD Model Regulations. It does not have specific legislation regarding chemicals.

Saint Lucia is in the process of developing a system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents.

## Recommendations

1. **Incorporate an evaluation system into the National Anti-Drug Plan that makes it possible to analyze, monitor, and interpret information on the processes, effects, and impact of interventions in demand and supply reduction and control measures.**
2. **Accede to the United Nations Convention of 1971.**
3. **Ratify the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.**

4. Sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
5. Establish regulations according to international conventions or agreements and CICAD model regulations for the control of chemical substances.
6. Develop an integrated system for the collection, analysis, and maintenance of statistics and documents as an important tool for national efforts against the drug phenomenon in all its aspects.

## DEMAND REDUCTION

Saint Lucia has a National Anti-Drug and Substance Abuse Strategy (NADSAS) currently covering the period 2000-2005. Except for some isolated efforts, there is no national system of drug abuse prevention programs. There are “Drugs in the Workplace” programs carried out by the private sector.

Saint Lucia has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.

There are established guidelines on minimum standards of care for drug treatment. Drug treatment and rehabilitation programs are available and include early detection and outreach, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and aftercare. Professional specialized training is offered in drug abuse prevention and treatment through the University of the West Indies.

There are no regular diagnoses of drug use in the general population. A study on Substance Awareness and Use Among School Children was conducted but no evaluation of Drug Abuse Prevention Programs has been completed. Although the average age of first use of illicit drugs was given as 12 years for males and 15 years for females, this data was obtained from patients at a treatment center and are not representative of the general population. There is no data available to determine the annual incidence of new drug users. There have been no studies to evaluate treatment and rehabilitation programs and modalities.

## Recommendations

1. Establish a system to provide information on the magnitude of drug consumption, which would include its prevalence among high-risk groups, and annual incidence of new drug users.
2. Expand “Drugs in the Workplace” programs to include the public sector.

## SUPPLY REDUCTION

In Saint Lucia, illicit cannabis crops exist in small plots, the extent and output of which have never been estimated. Although most of the crop is consumed locally, some is illicitly trafficked abroad, the quantity of which has not been estimated.

The Ministry of Health, Family, Human Services, and Women oversees pharmaceutical imports. Legitimate requirements for pharmaceuticals and controlled substances are estimated informally on the basis of annual consumption trends.

There is no institution charged with regulating professions involved in the use of pharmaceuticals.

Operational information exchange is restricted to pharmaceuticals and is conducted informally by the Customs and Excise and the Ministry of Health, Family, Human Services and Women.

Regarding pre-export notifications responded to in time, the country reported that there is a lack of immediate coordination at the national level, which seriously impedes the efficiency of the process.

## Recommendations

1. **Implement mechanisms for assessing the extent of illicit cannabis cultivation.**
2. **Systematize the mechanism for assessing legitimate needs for pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances.**
3. **Establish administrative, civil, and penal sanctions for the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances.**
4. **Strengthen coordination at the national level so as to expedite replies to prior notices of the export of controlled chemical substances originating abroad.**

## CONTROL MEASURES

Saint Lucia has specialized agencies to investigate, control, and eliminate illicit drug trafficking. The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force and Customs and Excise Department are responsible for enforcing the law. The Attorney General's Chambers is the designated judicial agency charged with adapting the necessary legislation. For its part, the Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat is responsible for administrative matters pertaining to supply and demand reduction.

The country has mechanisms for coordination, cooperation, and the timely exchange of information among the national and international agencies, through the Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat.

Saint Lucia reports that 311 drug seizure operations were conducted by law enforcement agencies. It also reports that 108 persons were arrested and tried for drug offenses. Of those individuals, the Saint Lucian courts convicted 37.

Saint Lucia issued 15 requests for international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting illicit drug trafficking. It received 8 replies.

There are national laws and regulations that criminalize the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials. The country has also established administrative control measures for the prevention of such offenses, and has issued regulations to govern the seizure, confiscation, and forfeiture of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials. There is a mechanism that records, by date, classification, and number, the importation of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials. There is no information on the maintenance of records on the manufacture of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials or the exportation of firearms. The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, through the Commissioner of Police, is responsible for control of the movement of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials. Saint Lucia has mechanisms for interagency coordination and information exchange on matters related to illicit drug trafficking at the national and international levels.

Saint Lucia reports that 2 persons were tried, and 1 convicted, for the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials. 65 firearms seizure operations were conducted. Saint Lucia does not identify the origins of the seized firearms, nor does it trace the routing employed in the diversion of firearms and related materials. Seizure of firearms is reported as 34 of various calibers of which 16 were confiscated. The data provided by Saint Lucia represents total seizures, but not necessarily all connected to illicit drug trafficking.

The country received no requests for international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting offenses related to firearms.

There are national laws and regulations that criminalize money laundering and administrative controls to prevent such activity. Saint Lucia has passed laws and regulations that authorize the freezing, seizure, and forfeiture of assets related to money laundering, and the country has requested and analyzed information and provided it to the competent authorities.

The Saint Lucia Money Laundering Act stipulates that financial institutions and other responsible agencies must report suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities and makes it mandatory for financial institutions to comply with other control measures.

There is no mechanism or entity with specific responsibility for managing and administering assets seized and forfeited from illicit drug trafficking.

The country has not arrested, charged, or convicted any person for money laundering. Its supervisory agencies have not imposed any judicial sanctions on financial institutions for failure to report suspicious transactions.

One request was received from the United States for international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting money laundering.

## Recommendations

1. **Establish a system for recording and maintaining information on the eventual manufacture of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and related materials and a mechanism for identifying the origin of seized firearms, and monitoring the routes employed in their diversion.**
2. **Establish a mechanism or body specifically charged with handling and administering assets seized and confiscated from illicit drug trafficking.**

## HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF DRUGS

**E**stimating Human, Social and Economic cost of the drug problem in all of its manifestations constitutes a complex process. This information is relevant to each country's understanding of the magnitude of the drug problem. This would enable each country to appreciate the direct and indirect cost in proportion to their Gross National Product or national annual budget. Because many countries have difficulty in providing these estimates, CICAD is proposing a hemispheric-wide program involving training and technical assistance, which should assist the country in its effort in confronting the drug problem and fulfilling this indicator's requirements.

## Recommendation

1. **Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.**

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

**C**ICAD recommends that Santa Lucia's anti-drug efforts be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Incorporate an evaluation system into the National Anti-Drug Plan that makes it possible to analyze, monitor, and interpret information on the processes, effects, and impact of interventions in demand and supply reduction and control measures.
2. Accede to the United Nations Convention of 1971.
3. Ratify the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.
4. Sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
5. Establish regulations according to international conventions or agreements and CICAD model regulations for the control of chemical substances.
6. Develop an integrated system for the collection, analysis, and maintenance of statistics and documents as an important tool for national efforts against the drug phenomenon in all its aspects.
7. Establish a system to provide information on the magnitude of drug consumption, which would include its prevalence among high-risk groups, and annual incidence of new drug users.
8. Expand "Drugs in the Workplace" programs to include the public sector.
9. Implement mechanisms for assessing the extent of illicit cannabis cultivation.
10. Systematize the mechanism for assessing legitimate needs for pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances.
11. Establish administrative, civil, and penal sanctions for the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances.
12. Strengthen coordination at the national level so as to expedite replies to prior notices of the export of controlled chemical substances originating abroad.
13. Establish a system for recording and maintaining information on the eventual manufacture of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and related materials and a

mechanism for identifying the origin of seized firearms, and monitoring the routes employed in their diversion.

14. Establish a mechanism or body specifically charged with handling and administering assets seized and confiscated from illicit drug trafficking.
15. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.