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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit
Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and
Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their
Causes and Consequences*

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

2022



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**Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:
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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established by a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, Chile - 1998), is a unique multilateral evaluation tool designed to measure the progress made and challenges faced by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, currently in force.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is the OAS specialized agency in charge of implementing this Mechanism.

The current MEM round is based on the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and their respective priority actions. These documents take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the gender perspective and human rights, cultural context, and social inclusion approaches, among others.

Seven evaluation rounds have been completed from 1998 to 2019 and, during 2020, the MEM Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), composed of member state delegates, agreed on a new methodology for the eighth round, consisting of annual thematic evaluations with the support of independent technical consultants, as follows: 2021 – Measures for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support; 2022 – Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences; 2023 – Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; International Cooperation; and 2024 – Comprehensive Evaluation based on updated information from all thematic areas.

MEM evaluations are carried out based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in their own country's evaluation, thus ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process. The GEG is always supported by the group of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round represents a more rigorous evaluation process, in which countries are requested to provide valid means of verification to support the information submitted and ensure compliance of each priority action.

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the area of "Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences" was conducted during 2022, and covers the 2019 to 2022 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with

the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the main purposes of MEM evaluation reports is to serve as a useful diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for improvement in drug policies and strategies, both at the national and regional levels.

OBJECTIVE**1**

DEVELOP AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL INTERDICTION CAPACITY, AS WELL AS THE CAPACITY TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop or strengthen intelligence and interdiction capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not implement or participate in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, or dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations.

The country does not have protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

Priority Action 1.2: Implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming in agencies and organizations in charge of drug control.

The agencies in charge of drug control in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines do not implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming.

Priority Action 1.3: Design, implement, and strengthen programs aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has programs or strategies aimed at land, maritime and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints. However, it does not have programs for riverine interdiction. The Coast Guard, a division under the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF), has radars placed at strategic points of the island to monitor fast moving crafts moving along the coastline. This exercise is often conducted in conjunction with other islands. The fast-moving vehicles are detected and assessed by the coastguard. These agencies, through the Regional Security System, provides intelligence from military and law enforcement agencies within the region.

Priority Action 1.4: Review and update, as appropriate, legal frameworks related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have laws or regulations providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking.

Priority Action 1.5: Review and/or update mechanisms countries use to monitor the evolution of drug trafficking and related crimes, for the purpose of identifying and responding to new trends and threats.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes.

Priority Action 1.6: Define and implement coordinated actions between national and regional entities to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. As Members of the Treaty Establishing the Regional Security System of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shares information and benefits from information shared through the System.

According to Article 4 of the Treaty, the purposes and functions of the System are to promote co-operation among the Member States in the prevention and interdiction of traffic in illegal narcotic drugs, in national emergencies, search and rescue, immigration control, fisheries protection, customs and excise control maritime policing duties, natural and other disasters, pollution control, combating threats to national security, the prevention of smuggling, and in the protection of off-shore installations and exclusive economic zones.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. The RSVGPF and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), along with key partners, through the Civil Asset Recovery Division the FIU, have proved successful in the fight against organized crime.

The country does not participate in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

Priority Action 1.7: Enhance the capacity of national and regional forensic laboratories or similar investigation entities to analyze and identify chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and facilitate information sharing with global repositories and across governmental counterparts.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has an agency responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA), pursuant to the Standard and Compliance Regulations and the Medicinal Cannabis Research Laboratories and Analytical Service Provider Regulations, through the Analytical Service Provider Facility, the only such facility in the Eastern Caribbean, is able to perform testing on a range of Cannabinoids, Terpenes, Heavy Metals, Pesticides, residual solvents and PCR microbiology in the Medicinal Cannabis Industry. It is able to detect levels of precursor substances including psychotropics, and cocaine precursors.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have or participate in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS.

The country does not have mechanisms to facilitate and share information at the national level across relevant governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS.

Priority Action 1.8: Enhance the capacity of relevant drug control and financial regulatory competent authorities to identify and address new challenges whereby synthetic drugs and their precursors and pharmaceutical products, being illicitly sold online and shipped through land, riverine, maritime, and aerial means.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet.

Priority Action 1.9: Enhance coordination with private sector entities to prevent diversion of chemical substances and precursors and deny criminals access to the materials, platforms, and services of the licit supply chain, which are exploited by criminal organizations for the illicit manufacture, sale, and trafficking of drugs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have partnerships or information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes.

The country does not use tools or resources of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals.

Priority Action 1.10: Enhance capacities for forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have national authorities with the appropriate budget, human or material resources, nor ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, or management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

The competent personnel of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines receive ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure and management of assets, tools or products related to illicit drug markets. The staff of the FIU, which includes financial investigators who are police officers seconded to the FIU, financial analysts and legal officers who are barristers and solicitors, attended the following training during the period under review. The training related to illicit drugs would also relate to money laundering of which drug trafficking is predicate offence. Please see below the following trainings attended:

- The Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) “Bi-Regional Meeting for the Exchange of Best Practices relating to Money Laundering and Asset Recovery” held in Madrid, Spain on May 21-24, 2019
- Department Against Transnational Organised Crime (DTCO) and Organization of American States (OAS) XLVIII Virtual Meeting of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) held virtually on June 30, 2020
- Department Against Transnational Organised Crime (DTCO) and Organisation of American States (OAS) XLVIII Virtual Meeting of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) Special Session of the XLVIII GELAVEX on cooperation in investigations and procedures related to corruption, tax crimes and associated money laundering held virtually on July 16, 2020
- The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) “New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Synthetic Opioids, Precursor & Dangerous Substances Awareness: Safe Interaction and Intelligence Sharing Webinar for Practitioners from the Caribbean and Latin America” held virtually on August 6-7, 2020
- The Global Maritime Crime Programme United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) “Caribbean Forum on Maritime Crime Virtual Series Session 2 Arms Smuggling, and Trafficking by Sea” held virtually on August 25, 2020
- CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) Trade-Based Money Laundering Training held virtually on September 9-10, 2020
- U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Webinar Week on Public-Private Partnerships to Counter Drug Challenges “The Drug Trade and Illicit Finance” held virtually on October 29, 2021
- U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Regional Civil Recovery Live Exercise held virtually on November 18, 2021, to June 8, 2022

OBJECTIVE

2

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES POSED BY NPS AND ILLICIT SYNTHETIC DRUGS, AND THE THREAT OF FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES, NON-MEDICAL SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, AND ILLICIT AMPHETAMINE DERIVATIVES.

Priority Action 2.1: Establish and/or strengthen early warning systems (EWS) at the national level to promote collaboration and the exchange of information with other existing regional or international systems.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify or trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, not other substances subject to international control.

Priority Action 2.2: Improve domestic capabilities to detect and analyze NPS by making resources and tools available for those responsible in this area.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and acquisition of technology. In this sense, through TruNarc and the Hardened Mobile trace detector.

Priority Action 2.3: Design and implement, when appropriate, national regulatory tools to address the challenges posed by NPS and national controls on emerging illicit synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs.

Priority Action 2.4: Promote participation in the Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS) to facilitate real-time communication of incidents involving suspicious shipments of trafficking in, or illicit manufacture or production of NPS, including fentanyl-related substances and other non-medical synthetic opioids and amphetamine derivatives.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not participate in the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)'s Project ION (International Operations on NPS).

Priority Action 2.5: Develop innovative regulatory approaches, such as generic controls, analogue legislation, and temporary or emergency controls, to enhance national controls on synthetic opioids for non-medical use, and NPS, particularly when scheduling fentanyl-related substances by class.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

OBJECTIVE

3

STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF THESE SUBSTANCES TO THE MANUFACTURING OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND COUNTER ITS TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING PERIODICALLY UPDATING NATIONAL LISTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

Priority Action 3.1: Promote inter-agency coordination with industry to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Medicinal Cannabis Authority established pursuant to the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2018, is responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry or users in general of controlled chemical substances.

The country does not have the instruments or mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls or cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances.

The country competent authorities carry out annual inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle controlled chemical substances, as listed in the table below:

Name of the competent national authority	Does it carry out regular inspections and audits?	Is it responsible for controlling domestic trade?	Does it consider the CICAD Model Regulations?
Medicinal Cannabis Authority	Yes. The Inspectorate units carry out annual inspections on Cannabis farms, cannabis manufacturers, authorized cannabis health facilities (Doctors' offices, pharmacies, consumption lounges)	Yes	No
Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment	Yes. Drug Inspector carries out annual inspections on entities that deal with all other drug products except Cannabis e.g., all pharmacies, manufacturers, poison/chemical sellers	Yes	Yes

Priority Action 3.2: Conduct analyses, including through existing mechanisms of information exchange, on substances, their analogues, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health in member states, to identify substances for expedited international control.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not carry out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health.

Priority Action 3.3: Strengthen the existing international control system to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances, pharmaceutical products, and precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, as well as interdiction to counter the trafficking of chemical substances.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the following legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities:

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pharmacy Act Cap 375 of the Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Revised Edition, 2009
- Drugs (Prevention of Misuse Act) CAP 284 of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Revised Edition, 2019
- The Precursor Chemical Act of 2003
- The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Medicinal Cannabis Industry (MCIA) Act 2018 has placed the international and regional export of Medicinal Cannabis on strict export regulations and the requirement for a license approved by the Cabinet of the country for any Medicinal Cannabis export

Priority Action 3.4: Strengthen or develop appropriate domestic controls over precursors including measures to control the international trade in precursor chemicals and other controlled chemical substances, consistent with the framework established in the United Nations Drug Conventions, and law enforcement measures.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has implemented the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 8 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
Control of all persons and enterprises engaged in the manufacture and distribution of controlled chemical substances	X	
Control, under license, the establishment and premises in which manufacture, or distribution of controlled chemical substances may take place	X	
Require that licensees obtain a permit for manufacturing or distributing controlled chemical substances	X	

Prevent the accumulation of controlled chemical substances in the possession of manufacturers and distributors, in excess of the quantities required for the normal conduct of business and the prevailing market conditions	X	
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The country has implemented the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
A system to monitor international trade in controlled chemical substances to facilitate the identification of suspicious transactions		X
The monitoring system shall be used by manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, and retailers to inform the competent authorities of suspicious orders and transactions		X
Any controlled substance is seized if there is sufficient evidence that it will be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotics or psychotropic substances	X	
The competent authorities are notified, as soon as possible, if there is reason to believe that the import, export, or transit of a substance is destined for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, including, in particular, information about the means of payment and any other essential elements which led to that belief	X	
Requirements to ensure that imports and exports are properly labeled and documented. Commercial documents such as invoices, cargo manifests, customs, transport, and other shipping documents must include the names of the substances, the quantity, and the name and address of the exporter, the importer and, when available, the consignee. These documents are kept for a period of no less than two years and may be made available for inspection by competent authorities	X	

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines complies with the request for information in Article 12, Paragraph 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

Notification of import permit sent to the Police and Customs Department and Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) declarations exist as additional precursor chemical control measure.

Priority Action 3.5: Promote participation in the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system and Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) to facilitate information exchange on controlled chemical substances.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines uses the International Narcotics Control Board’s (INCB) information system for pre-export notifications (PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances.

The country does not use the INCB’s Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS).

Priority Action 3.6: Train relevant drug investigation, control and interdiction personnel and researchers on the identification and handling of precursors and other controlled chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not receive training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

Priority Action 3.7: Allocate resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances, and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines there are no budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment or supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks.

Priority Action 3.8: Use, as appropriate, CICAD's Model Regulations for the control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2019) in the formulation of national chemical control regulations.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines uses the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In this sense, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment uses this tool through authorizations and inspections.

OBJECTIVE
4

ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, WHILE ALSO PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS.

Priority Action 4.1: Streamline, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations, the process for issuing authorizations for national production, and to import and export controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has special processes for issuing authorizations for import of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The following table indicates how long it takes on average, for an import or export authorization to be issued:

Product type	Average time to issue import permits	Average time to issue export permits
Narcotic or psychotropic raw materials for the manufacture of medicines	–	–
Medication containing narcotic or psychotropic drugs	10 days	–
Analytical patterns classified as narcotic or psychotropic	10 days	–
Medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country	3 weeks	–

The country has an updated register of individuals or companies importing substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Priority Action 4.2: Adopt measures, in accordance with national laws, to train competent authorities and health professionals on ensuring access to substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes.

Priority Action 4.3: Improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by addressing existing barriers, including those related to laws, regulations, and measures to promote access and build capacity for health care systems.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the following regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes:

- The Pharmacy Act, NO. 375 Of 2009 Revised
- The Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act Chapter 284, 2019
- Precursor Chemicals Act CAP. 298 No. 2 Of 2003
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act 2018
- Patient Access Regulations 2020
- Standard and Compliance Regulations 2022
- Training Manual approved by the Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA), Advisory Council
- Research Protocol reviewed by the MCA Advisory Council

OBJECTIVE

5

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND THOSE CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

Priority Action 5.1: Strengthen or implement control measures on pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or controlled psychoactive substances, to prevent their diversion for non-medical purposes, abuse, and trafficking.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances.

The Pharmacy Council registers and authorizes pharmacists as sellers of controlled substances including opioids, psychotropic drugs and precursor chemicals.

The following information is collected by the Pharmacy Council:

- Name and address of authorized business
- Registration number

The Statistical Office in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology collects data on the importation of precursor chemicals. The information collected includes:

- Name of importer
- Quantity of goods imported
- Origin of goods imported
- Value of goods imported

The Drug Inspector collects applications for licenses and authorizations for the importation of narcotic and precursor chemicals. The information collected includes:

- Name and address of importer
- Name and address of Exporter
- Quantity of chemical preparation/ substance to be imported
- Purpose of the goods

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

The country carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances,

narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

Priority Action 5.2: Update existing and other regulations and control measures to prevent diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the following penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances:

Type of Penalty	Year of last update
Criminal	2009 and 2019 (Pharmacy Act, Cap. 375 Revised and its Regulations)
Civil	
Administrative	

Priority Action 5.3: Strengthen national capacity and regional cooperation to prevent trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including pill presses and encapsulating equipment.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have periodic training for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The country does not share information with other regional or global systems on the diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Priority Action 5.4: Promote the incorporation of competent national authorities to the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES) of the International Narcotics Control Board, a secure online platform, ready to issue, load, and exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use, between countries.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not use the International Narcotics Control Board’s (INCB) International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES), nor does it have alternative mechanisms that are ready to issue, load, or exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use.

The country has not received training on the INCB’s I2ES System.

OBJECTIVE

6

STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SHARING MECHANISMS TO DETECT METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE EXPLOITATION OF LAND, RIVERINE, MARITIME, AND AERIAL ROUTES.

Priority Action 6.1: Train law enforcement personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations, including through the use of existing information systems and intelligence data exchanges.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis and operations. The Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF), including personnel from the Narcotics Unit, benefitted from the Narcotics Investigation and Drug Identification training programs offered by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) based in El Salvador, and the Regional Security System (RSS) training institute based in Barbados, provided training to Narcotics investigators in maritime topic areas like boarding and rummage and basic seamanship.

Priority Action 6.2: Enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies that investigate and counter drug trafficking and the crimes that facilitate and are associated with trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering, through ongoing training of the involved personnel.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participates in the following periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering:

- World Bank WEBEX Training on Counter-Terrorist Financing on July 29 and July 30, 2020
- Global Maritime Crime Programme United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Caribbean Forum on Maritime Crime Virtual Series Session 2 Arms Smuggling and Trafficking by Sea on August 25, 2020
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism and The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) two-day Webinar on Trade Based Money Laundering on September 9-10, 2020
- Regional Security System (RSS) Fraud/Ponzi/Pyramid Schemes in the Wake of COVID-19 conducted on September 15, 2020
- OECD International Academy for Tax Crime Investigative Techniques for the Effective Use of Banking Information (Specialty) Virtual Programme October 12-21, 2020
- OAS/DTOC Virtual Seminar on National Risk Assessment (NRA) on Money Laundering for Latin America and the Caribbean October 26,27 and 28, 2020
- Annual training conducted by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Financial Intelligence Unit focusing on training financial institutions on the trends on typologies of the money

laundering, counter terrorist financing and proliferation financing

Priority Action 6.3: Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among the domestic, regional, and international law enforcement agencies to carry out operations and investigations to counter drug trafficking and related crimes.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. In this sense, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) provides FIUs with a platform to securely exchange expertise and financial intelligence to combat money laundering, terrorist financing (ML/TF), and associated predicate offences.

Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for the Caribbean (ARIN-CARIB) an informal network of law enforcement and judicial practitioners specializing in the recovery of the proceeds of crime and the prosecution of related criminal offence. Each member state is represented by a law enforcement officer and a prosecutor or judicial expert who act as national contact points for sharing information with their counterparts including money laundering and the trafficking of drugs, firearms, and people.

CARICOM's Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) is designed to administer a collective response to the Crime and Security priorities of Member States. It disseminates information with respect to evolving regional and international trends in crime and security.

Priority Action 6.4: Promote and strengthen the exchange of information and intelligence on matters of drug interdiction and effective border control measures to prevent drug trafficking by land, river, sea, and air.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction.

Priority Action 6.5: Improve the information systems on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behavior patterns and modus operandi of criminal drug trafficking organizations.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. The agency which provides information for the system is the Narcotics Unit of the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF). Information and intelligence sharing is the information system on drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE
7

ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR REINFORCE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, SUCH AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF).

Priority Action 7.1: Strengthen implementation of the legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering associated with drug trafficking.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has strengthened the legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this sense, the country has the following laws:

- Financial Intelligence Unit Act No. 38 of 2001 CAP 174 of the Revised Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) No. 38 of 2013 as amended by Act No. 18 of 2017
- Anti-Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Act No.14 of 2015 as amended by S.R.O No. 17 of 2017
- Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Regulations (AML/CFT) Regulations No. 20 of 2014 as amended by S.R.O No. 25 of 2017
- Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Code S.R.O No. 24 of 2017 (“AML/CFT Code”)
- Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Non-Regulated Service Providers) Regulations 2022 (“NRSP Regulations”)
- Exchange of Information Act
- Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act
- Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act and Legal Banking for Licensed entities

Priority Action 7.2: Develop and implement specialized ongoing training in areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, consistent with known and emerging risks.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the following periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking:

- The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Regional Security System provide training of Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) to the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF)
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Financial Intelligence Unit (SVGFIU) provides training to the Coast Guard Service, the Customs and Excise Division, the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) of the RSVGPF and Law Enforcement in the Out-District areas where points of entries are located, because they are considered vulnerable to illegal conduct as entry and exit points

- SVGFIU provides AML training to RSVGPF recruits as part of their programme
- Between May-June SVGFIU holds its Annual Anti-Money Laundering / Countering the Financing of Terrorism / Financing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (AML/CFT/PF) Compliance Trainings with financial institutions including banks, credit unions, money remittance agencies, insurance companies and the non-regulated service providers

Priority Action 7.3: Enhance investigations by competent authorities into drug trafficking cases linked to money laundering and illicit use of assets.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. According to the Police Act Cap. 391, the police have the power to investigate all crimes, including drug trafficking, while another of its duties is the prevention and detection of crimes. The 2021 Guidance Note from the Director of Public Prosecutions provides guidance on the investigative steps to be undertaken by officers when assets are seized. In practice Police inform the SVGFIU of any financial aspect in any of their investigations into a predicate offence and request that the Unit conduct a parallel financial investigation. Staffing of the FIU with seconded Police Officers facilitates this, allowing for officers of the FIU to advise in these matters.

Priority Action 7.4: Strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation in relation to the development of national anti-money laundering strategies, including through coordinating committees and task forces.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the following mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering:

Issues of money laundering are addressed through inter-agency cooperation between the FIU, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP)/National Prosecution Service, the RSVGPF, the Coast Guard Service, Passport and Immigration Department and Customs and Excise Department and the Inland Revenue Department.

In taking the profit out of crime, monies and/or the essential goods that are transported via go-fast vessels are intercepted by Coastguard officers in the territorial waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, at ports of entry or other points of entry. The goods seized are handed over to Customs and Excise Department while the cash seized is handed over to the FIU pending further investigations. Parallel investigations may then ensue with the RSVGPF, Coast Guard and the FIU. The FIU may apply to the Magistrate's Court for a detention/forfeiture order and the monies are placed in an interest-bearing account upon a detention order (section 111 of the POCA). Based on the circumstances of the case, a money laundering investigation may be launched concurrently with the civil cash detention investigation. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions – National Prosecution Service (ODPP-NPS) may form the view that money laundering charges are appropriate in the circumstances and as result the detention

order/forfeiture application would remain pending the money laundering case outcome.

Following a money laundering conviction, monies are confiscated and paid into the Confiscated Assets Fund (CAF). If the monies are forfeited, the monies with any interest accrued are also paid into the CAF. The Minister of Finance authorizes payments to be made from the CAF to supplement resources allocated to projects relating to public education in relation to drugs and are also allocated to several government agencies which are instrumental in the fight against money laundering (section 160 (4) of the POCA).

Priority Action 7.5: Strengthen the exchange of financial intelligence as related to money laundering, including through the standardization of information systems.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a financial intelligence unit (SVGFIU).

The country has the following information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking:

- Egmont Secure Web facilitates direct communication between FIUs
- SVGFIU AMLive, which is a web-based e-reporting and case management solution used by a wide variety of institutions as an e-component of their internal reporting procedures to enhance their AML/CFT framework
- I2 ibase provides powerful solutions for configuring, capturing, controlling, analyzing and displaying complex information and relationships in link and entity data
- i2 Analysis Notebook provides rich visual analysis capabilities that can help to quickly turn complex sets of disparate information into high-quality, actionable intelligence. This helps analysts and others involved in intelligence analysis identify, predict, and avoid criminal, terrorist, and fraudulent activities

Priority Action 7.6: Identify and analyze money laundering threats to mitigate risks through public policies that strengthen the regime for preventing and countering money laundering, in accordance with applicable international instruments.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. In this sense, the country conducted a National Risk Assessment between December 2017 and January 2020, the findings of which were made publicly available. Training has commenced in respect of the findings as well. The SVGFIU conducts annual AML/CFT Training to financial institutions including banks, credit unions, insurance companies and money service businesses. The training conducted informs these institutions on the importance of assessing their institutions' money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) risks and applying a risk-based approach.

In accordance with the FATF Recommendation 1 on assessing risks and applying a risk-based

approach, the SVGFIU conducts an Annual Complaining Report Programme where financial institutions submit their compliance document for review by the SVGFIU and receives feedback and recommendations for amendments with the goal of transitioning from stages 1-7 of the programme.

In accordance with regulations 36(6) of the AML/TF Regulations the SVGFIU is designated as the supervisory authority of NRSPs (equivalent to FATF's Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs)) which comprises of real estate agents, casinos, car dealers, jewelers, lawyers, notaries, accountants and auditors who engage in the buying and selling of real estate, management of client money, securities or savings and the creation and management of companies, legal persons or arrangements. In light of this, in August 2018, the Supervisory Department for NRSPs was established to monitor the compliance of NRSPs with their AML/CFT obligations to include applying a risk-based approach. To this end, the Non-Regulated Service Provider Regulations passed in February of 2022.

Priority Action 7.7: Strengthen partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities. In this sense, the Director of the SVGFIU, by virtue of section 4(2) of the FIU Act can request for information via Director's Letter can where it appears to the Director that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a relevant offence has been committed or that information is required for the analysis of suspicious transactions reports require the production of information (excluding information subject to legal professional privilege) from:

- Financial institutions and persons engaged in a relevant business activity
- Law enforcement bodies, Governmental bodies and domestic regulatory bodies as defined in the exchange of Information Act

As the FIU considers necessary for the purpose of investigating the relevant offence or analyzing the SAR. Investigative tools available for a money laundering investigation includes:

- A Production Order pursuant to section 133 of the POCA
- A Search and Seizure Warrant pursuant section 137 of the POCA
- A Customer information Order pursuant to section 140 of the POCA.

OBJECTIVE

8

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES, IN LINE WITH APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IN LINE WITH RELEVANT STANDARDS, SUCH AS THE FATF RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTIVE FREEZING OF ASSETS.

Priority Action 8.1: Establish and/or strengthen, as appropriate, national entities responsible for the administration and disposition of assets seized and/or forfeited in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes.

Priority Action 8.2: Establish specialized agencies and appropriate mechanisms for the transparent administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance with national laws and international standards.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

The country has the following regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets which is relevant only in relation to recovery of cash in summary proceedings:

Section 109 of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) seizure of cash:

- A law enforcement officer may seize cash if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is recoverable cash
- Section 111(1) of the POCA
- If cash is detained under section 110 for a period of more than 72 hours, it shall, at the first opportunity, be paid into an interest-bearing account and held there, and the interest accruing on it is to be added to it on its forfeiture or release
- Section 113 of the POCA- Forfeiture
- Section 113(1) While cash is detained under section 110, an application for the forfeiture of the whole or any part of it may be made to the Magistrate's Court by a law enforcement officer
- Section 113(2) The Magistrate's Court may order the forfeiture of the cash, or any part of it, if satisfied that the case or part is recoverable cash

With respect to seized or forfeited assets, the following provisions facilitate accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets:

- Section 47(2) of the POCA – Court Order to appoint the Management Receiver in the case of Restraint Orders
- Section 48(2) of the POCA – Court Order to appoint the Enforcement Receiver in the case of Confiscation Orders

- Section 80 of the POCA - Court Order for a Receiver to be appointed in the case of frozen property as an interim measure in the civil realm to prevent the Respondent from dissipating the assets
- The appointment of a trustee in accordance with Section 92(1) of the POCA
- The Eastern Caribbean Civil Procedure Rules Practice Direction No. 6 of 2020, which guides the practice in the High Court as it relates to inter alia, Property Freezing Orders and Recovery Orders

Priority Action 8.3: Develop and implement specialized, ongoing training programs for law enforcement officials charged with the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participates in the following specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets:

	Name and type of training received
International organizations	<p>Type of Training: Asset Recovery</p> <p>Name of Workshop: The 3rd EU-CELAC Bi-regional Meeting for the Exchange of Best Practices COPOLAD: Money Laundering and Asset Recovery, May 22-23, 2019, in Madrid, Spain</p> <p>Agency: The Cooperation Programme on Drugs between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (COPOLAD)</p>

Priority Action 8.4: In accordance with each country’s constitutional principles, apply legislative and regulatory measures to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture and management of assets, instruments, or products of illicit drug-related activities.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the following legislation, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes:

- POCA Part II (Confiscation) and Part III (Civil Recovery)
- Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act (MACMA) CAP 177

OBJECTIVE

9

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF SUB-NATIONAL REGIONS OF EACH COUNTRY, RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 9.1: Design, implement, and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, through the Medicinal Cannabis Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture has updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. Development of a regulated medicinal cannabis industry has allowed policies that have converted illicit cannabis farmers to a Licensed Traditional Cultivation program that has taken framers out of the illicit shadows. The farmers are trained and given support on farming practices to ensure that their cannabis harvest meets the standards of the industry for export and local manufacturing. And licensed Traditional Cultivation of cannabis is adopted as a sustainable alternative development policy by the government along with other alternative developments.

- Cannabis Cultivation (Amnesty) Bill, 2018 and Cannabis Cultivation (Amnesty) Regulations, 2020 (attached)

Priority Action 9.2: Establish budgetary mechanisms to ensure sufficient and consistent allocation of resources to counternarcotics programs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs.

Priority Action 9.3: Promote supply reduction measures that take into account licit traditional uses, whenever there is historical evidence of such uses, as well as environmental protection.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines takes into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In this sense, the development of a Medicinal Cannabis Authority Industry took into consideration the historical evidence of the Rastafarian faith and the use of cannabis within this religious body as a sacrament in their religious practice. And this was acknowledged and addressed within the Medicinal Cannabis Authority Industry development and was legislated for this group.

The country includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce

the illicit supply of drugs. In this sense, it is done through re-forestation of lands under illicit cultivation prior to the development of the Medicinal Cannabis Industry. Also, training farmers on cultivation practices that reduce impurities and chemical use in cannabis cultivation for the industry.

Priority Action 9.4: Strengthen inter-agency cooperation to provide a comprehensive response against the illicit production of drugs, including collaboration among the public and private sectors and the international community.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs.

Priority Action 9.5: Support supply reduction programs with crime prevention initiatives, in cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to address social and economic risk factors.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which do not include the participation from civil society or other social stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE

10

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVES, COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE, WHILE RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 10.1: Design and implement comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has designed and implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops since 2018. The Medicinal Cannabis Authority coordinates and evaluates the implementation of these programs. These programs take into account the human rights perspective by ensuring that cannabis cultivation is regulated, scientific research is fostered, safe & efficient access to medicinal cannabis to patients who require it, strengthening of social programs as harm reduction methods and re-forestation of lands under illicit cultivation prior to the development of the Medicinal Cannabis Industry.

In this sense, the following is the implemented program:

- The License Traditional Cultivation Program under the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act is adopted as a sustainable alternative development program for the county by the government

Priority Action 10.2: Exchange experiences and best practices in the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines exchanges experiences and best practices with other countries in the Hemisphere on the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs and preventive alternative development, as follows:

- Hosted several regional conferences by Trans-national Institute (TNI) on sharing of the Vincentian experience
- Hosted delegations from Barbados and St. Lucia in 2022 on the Vincentian experience
- A high-level delegation of the Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA), and the Minister responsible for the MCA made a visited and presentation to the MCA board in Antigua and Cabinet members and shared the policy and experience of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2019
- A high-level delegation visits to Aruba in 2018

- Presentations made by the MCA to the Saint Kitts and Nevis MCA in 2021
- Presentation at the recent Cooperation Programme between Latin America, Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) workshops in Paraguay and Bogota, Colombia
- Presentations in Jamaica and Canex
- Participated in the Regulators Speak in Canada
- Presentations at the International forum in London England and Kazakhstan in 2019; and consultations by a number of nations

Priority Action 10.3: Promote and disseminate the results of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and the benefits they provide to affected communities.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not promote or disseminate the results of these programs, or the benefits they provide to affected communities.

Priority Action 10.4: Design and/or strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs aimed at reducing illicit crop cultivation and improving the well-being of communities, through the use of indicators that measure programs' effectiveness.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not use results indicators to monitor or evaluate the effectiveness of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs in the medium and long terms.

Priority Action 10.5: Strengthen state presence in areas affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, consistent with the circumstances of each member state.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, supplemented by public policies that strengthen the government's presence in areas affected by illicit crops, which are implemented by the following agencies:

Agencies that implement policies that supplement alternative development programs in affected areas	Yes	No
Ministry of Agriculture	X	
Agricultural Research	X	
Ministry of Education	X	
Ministry of Health		X
Ministry of the Interior/National Police (law enforcement)		X
Ministry of National Security/Defense		X
Transportation/Public Works Ministry		X
Ministry of Women/Family		X

Agencies that implement policies that supplement alternative development programs in affected areas	Yes	No
Ministry of Commerce (International)		X
Public Ministry		X
Ministry of Labor/Social Affairs		X
National Drug Authority	X	

Priority Action 10.6: Promote, in accordance with national realities, the participation of local communities and relevant organizations in the development of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, taking into account their needs and capabilities.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ communities and target groups participate in the design, implementation, and supervision processes of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs by having Licensed Traditional Cultivators of Cannabis form cooperatives and decides on how their cooperatives interact with international investors in the industry. They partner with the Medicinal Cannabis Authority in the development and regulation of the industry.

Priority Action 10.7: Promote partnerships and innovative cooperative initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to spur investment and job creation in areas and communities affected by or at-risk of illicit drug cultivation and production, and share related practices, lessons learned, expertise, and skills.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines promotes the following partnerships and innovative cooperation initiative with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to establish programs that lead to job creation in areas affected by illicit drug cultivation and traffic:

Name of the program	Agency
Traditional Cannabis Cultivation	Medicinal Cannabis Authority

The country’s programs do not share best practices, lessons learned, expertise, or skills acquired.

OBJECTIVE
11

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.

Priority Action 11.1: Conduct research and studies on the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and illicit production of drugs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production.

Priority Action 11.2: Design and implement specific research-based plans to mitigate the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and drug production, with the participation of local communities.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 11.3: Promote and strengthen the use of environmental management tools, as appropriate.

Not applicable.

OBJECTIVE
12

ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION, AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

Priority Action 12.1: Develop and implement local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes.

Priority Action 12.4: Encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive intervention strategies to counter local illicit distribution and sale of drugs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has developed and implemented local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, which take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security. The Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF), through its public relations and complaints department, hosts a weekly radio program on the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), called “Police on the Beat” where the organization would sensitize the listening public on various issues affecting them especially with regards to drug trafficking. This forum provides the public with a means to report crimes that are affecting their communities, in a manner that ensures confidentiality and efficacy. The organization also has a website and a popular social media presence, which provides additional layers of cooperation between the police and the public.

Priority Action 12.2: Promote the inter-agency exchange of information at the national level to better understand the scope and adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking, including on health, society, the economy, and security.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines promotes the inter-agency exchange of information at the national level on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health sector, but not in the social, economic, or security sectors.

Entities among which information was exchanged	Means of exchange	Year
Health	Quarterly statistics	2019-2021

Priority Action 12.3: Promote programs and strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have programs or strategies that prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

Objective 1

Develop and/or strengthen national- and regional-level interdiction capacity, as well as the capacity to reduce the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, and distribution of plant-based and synthetic drugs through the use of comprehensive and balanced programs in accordance with the realities of each country's domestic legislation and respect for human rights.

CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not implement or participate in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, or dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations; and does not have protocols and procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. CICAD also notes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines do not implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. However, CICAD observes that the country has programs or strategies for land, maritime, and aerial interdiction of drugs through monitoring, inspections, and checkpoints, but does not have for riverine interdiction. Moreover, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have legal instruments providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the country does not have updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines implements actions to identify organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in these crimes; however, it does not participate in operations and investigations with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. CICAD notes that the country has an agency responsible for and capable of analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), but does not have or participate in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. Moreover, CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across government counterparts, or with global repositories on these substances. CICAD notes that the country does not have mechanisms to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. CICAD observes further that the country does not have partnerships or information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes nor uses tools and resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have national authorities with the appropriate budget, human, nor material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, or management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets; however, its competent personnel receive ongoing training on this area.

Objective 2

Strengthen national measures to address the challenges posed by NPS and illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, and illicit amphetamine derivatives.

CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, and other substances subject to international control. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and acquisition of technology. However, CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have a regulatory framework to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs. Also, CICAD notes that the country does not participate in the INCB's Project ION. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

Objective 3

Strengthen or develop legal and institutional frameworks for the effective monitoring and control of essential chemical substances and precursors to prevent diversion of these substances to the manufacturing of illicit drugs and counter its trafficking, including periodically updating national lists of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, but observes that the country does not have instruments or mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls or cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. However, CICAD observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances and that its competent authority carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not carry out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Likewise, CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities, which include all of the control measures listed in Paragraph 8, three of the five control measures listed in Paragraph 9, and incorporate the requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country uses the INCB's PEN Online system for pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances but not the PICS system. However, CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not receive training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country does not have budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire

necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. However, CICAD observes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines uses the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Objective 4

Ensure adequate availability and accessibility of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, while also preventing their diversion towards illicit activities, in accordance with international drug control conventions.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has special processes for issuing authorizations for the import of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes and that it has an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have training activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. On the other hand, CICAD notes with satisfaction that the country has a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Objective 5

Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent diversion of controlled pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances, and those containing precursor substances used in the production of controlled substances.

CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors of these products, and carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle them. CICAD observes that the country has criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. However, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not offer periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, nor shares information with other regional or global systems on this matter. Furthermore, CICAD observes with concern that the country does not use the INCB's I2ES system, does not have alternative mechanisms that are ready to issue, load, or exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use; and it has not received training on its use.

Objective 6

Strengthen or develop specific operational and intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to detect methods used by criminal organizations, including the exploitation of land, riverine, maritime, and aerial routes.

CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country participates in periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Additionally, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction. Likewise, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

Objective 7

Establish, update, or reinforce, as appropriate, the legislative and institutional frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, such as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has strengthened its legislative framework to counter money laundering derived from illicit drug trafficking and has periodic training programs for officials or those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Moreover, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has protocols that enable authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms allowing for interagency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD notes further that Saint Vincent, and the Grenadines has a financial intelligence unit as well as information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from illicit drug trafficking. CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with FATF recommendations. Additionally, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has established partnerships with financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Objective 8

Establish and/or strengthen agencies for the administration and disposition of seized and/or forfeited assets in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes, in line with applicable international law, and in line with relevant standards, such as the FATF recommendations and the recommendations on preventive freezing of assets.

CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets but has laws to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country participates in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. Moreover, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has legislation, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

Objective 9

Design, implement, and strengthen comprehensive and balanced national programs to reduce the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs through the adoption of effective measures, such as comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, enhanced law enforcement cooperation, and other appropriate policies and programs, taking into account the particular needs of sub-national regions of each country, respecting human rights.

CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has designed, implemented, and updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country takes into account licit traditional uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs and includes environmental protection measures in these policies and programs. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Additionally, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation of civil society and other social stakeholders.

Objective 10

Design, implement or strengthen long-term alternative development programs, including rural and urban alternatives, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has designed and implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs as part of illicit crop control and reduction strategies, which incorporate the human rights perspective. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country exchanges experiences and best practices with other countries in the Hemisphere on the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs. However, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not promote nor disseminate the results of these programs and the benefits for affected communities. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country does not use results to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs in the medium and long term. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs are supplemented by public policies that strengthen the government's presence in areas affected by illicit crops. CICAD also observes that the country's communities and target groups participate in the design, implementation, and supervision of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines promotes partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to establish programs that lead to job creation in areas affected by illicit drug cultivation and traffic, but these programs do not share best practices, lessons learned, expertise, and skills acquired.

Objective 11

Design and implement plans and/or programs to mitigate and reduce the impact of illicit crops and drug production on the environment, in cooperation with local communities and national policies of member states.

CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, therefore the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 12

Address the effects of small-scale drug trafficking on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security.

CICAD notes that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country promotes interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health sector, but not in the social, economic, and security sectors. CICAD notes with concern that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have programs or strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national or international level.



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