# a Guyana Haiti Costa Rica **EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL** 2007-2009 Organization of American States

# Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

> Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)



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

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

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

### **COSTA RICA**

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



# CICAD wishes to thank the following Costa Rican national institutions which provided information to this MEM national Fifth Round report.

- Costa Rican Institute on Drugs:
  - o National Information and Statistics Unit on Drugs
  - Unit for Control and Oversight of Chemical Precursors
  - o Prevention Projects Unit
  - o Financial Intelligence Unit
  - Unit for Seized and Forfeited Goods
  - Legal Consultancy
- Ministry of Public Security
  - Drug Control Police
  - o National Coast Guard Service
  - o Aerial Surveillance Service, Department of Air Force Operations
  - Central Armament Office
- Ministry of Health
  - o Division of Health Regulation
  - o Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency
- Office of the Attorney General
- Judicial Investigations Office
  - o Forensic Science Department
  - o Planning and Operations Office
- Public Prosecutor's Office, Public Prosecutor for Organized Crime
- Secretariat of the Supreme Court of Justice



#### **PREFACE**

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

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

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

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



#### INTRODUCTION

Costa Rica is located in Central America and borders Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. It has a total area of 51,100 square kilometers and a population of 4,509,290 (2009). The population is mostly of Spanish ancestry and has a literacy rate of 96%. Costa Rica's economy is agriculture-based, and its main exports include coffee, bananas, sugar, pineapples, textiles, electronic components, and medical equipment. In recent years, the tourism industry has become an important source of revenue for the country. The per capita gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices for 2009 is \$29,283.80. The country is a democratic republic composed of seven provinces. The chief of state and head of government is the president.

#### I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

#### A. National Anti-drug Strategy

Costa Rica's National Drug Plan is in force for the period 2008–2012. The country reports that the Plan covers actions in the areas of drug use prevention, healthcare services for drug users, prevention and control of illicit drug trafficking, control and monitoring of narcotics and psychotropic substances, precursors and essential chemicals, and prevention and control of money laundering.

The following national entities are involved in executing the National Drug Plan: the Ministries of Health (MS), Public Security (MSP), Justice and Pardon, Public Education (MEP), Treasury, Labor & Social Security (MTSS), Agriculture & Animal Husbandry (MAG), Environment & Energy (MINAE), Public Works & Transportation (MOPT), Justice (MJ); the Judicial Branch (PJ); the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP); the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (IAFA); Social Assistance Institute (IMAS); National Institute for Learning (INA); National Children's Society (PANI); Social Security Organization of Costa Rica (CCSS); Citizen's Defense (DH); National Woman's Institute (INAMU); Social Protection Board (JPS); Intelligence & National Security Agency (DIS); Electric Power Institute (ICE); Agrarian Development Institute (IDA); National Institute for Statistics & the Census ((INEC); Judicial Investigations Agency (OIJ); College of Pharmacy; College of Medicine; Post Office; General Directorate of Customs (DGA); Customs Laboratory; Presidency of the Republic Office of Laws & Decrees; Direct Taxation Service; National Notary Service; Institute for Municipal Development and Consultancy; Foreign Trade Agency; General Stock Exchange Administration; General Administration of Financial Entities; Pension Administration; local municipalities; radio & television broadcasting networks and other media; collegiate bodies; and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Costa Rica reports that through Directive 032-MP, the country guarantees the adoption and execution of the programs and projects specified in the PND. Each of the policy executors places its organizational structure at the service of the executive for carrying out the PND's provisions.



The National Drug Plan has its own budget, and the country provides the following amounts allocated yearly:

#### Annual Budget of the National Drug Plan, 2006-2009

2006 (US\$)	2007(US\$)	2008(US\$)	2009(US\$)
3,108	565,893	1,479,049	1,184,464

The Plan has a monitoring and evaluation system administered by the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD).

The ICD is the national anti-drug authority and is assigned to the Ministry of the Presidency. The Executive Board includes representatives from the Ministries of the Office of the President, Public Security and Governance, Public Education, Justice and Pardon, Health or the Judicial Investigation Organization (OIJ), and the Office of the Attorney General of the State.

The ICD coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, the drug observatory, international cooperation, program evaluation, and financing of terrorism. This national authority also performs the duties of the central technical office.

The ICD has an autonomous annual budget. Its sources of financing are government allocations, self-financing, and international cooperation. The amounts allocated are as follows:

Annual Budget of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs, 2006-2009

Fiscal Year	Total Budget Received (US\$)
2006	5,314,417
2007	5,380,596
2008	8,370,328
2009	8,333,494

#### B. International Conventions

Costa Rica has ratified the following conventions:

- Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996;
- Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, 1997;
- United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol;
- United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971;
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988;
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000;



- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition;
- United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003.

The country has not ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.

Costa Rica enacted several pieces of legislation in accordance with the aforementioned international conventions during years 2006–2009. This legislation covered a variety of issues including extension of victim and witness protection, reciprocal judicial assistance with other countries, custody and disposal of drugs, penal sanctions, investigations and judicial proceedings in organized crime cases, financing of terrorism, penalization for transnational crimes and violations of human rights, and regulating injectable fentanyl.

#### C. National Information System

The Costa Rican Institute on Drugs is responsible for organizing, carrying out studies, compiling, and coordinating statistics and other drug-related information. The country advises that the following studies on demand reduction were conducted during the period 2006–2009:

Studies Conducted in the Area of Demand Reduction, 2006–2009

Studies	200	)6	200	)7	200	08	20	09
Studies	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Prio	rity Stuc	lies					
Secondary school student surveys	Х			Х		Х	Х	
National household survey	Х			Х		Х		Х
Information from patient surveys in treatment centers in the country	Х		х		х		Х	
	Recomn	nended	Studies					
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers	Х		х		х		Х	
Information from forensic medicine registers of deceased persons showing the association of drug use and cause of death	х		х		х		х	
Emergency room patient surveys		Х		Х		Х		Х
Higher education student surveys	Х		Х			Х		Х
Number of drug-related deaths	Х		Х		Х		Х	



Studies		06	200	)7	200	08	20	09
Studies	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Smoking by university medical students, Costa Rica's results in the GHPS world study	х			Х		Х		Х
Adolescents at risk. Drug use by incarcerated minors and violators of the Juvenile Penal Code	x			х		Х		Х
Status of Drug Trafficking in the Costa Rican Education System		х	х			Х		Х
Research on drug trafficking in primary and secondary schools in the Regional Directorate of Cartago, 2007-2008		х	x		х			Х
Report on the third world survey on tobacco and youth, done in Costa Rica, 2008		х		х	х			Х
Use of psychoactive substances and risk perception by secondary school teachers in Costa Rica		х		х		Х	Х	
Drug use by secondary school students. Second national survey, Costa Rica 2009. Preliminary results		х		х		Х	Х	

Costa Rica reports the following information available in the area of supply reduction for the years 2006–2009:

#### Information Available in the Area of Supply Reduction, 2006–2009

Information	200	06	200	7	200	08	20	09
illolliation	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Priority	/ Inform	ation					
Drug availability indicators	Х		Х		Х		Х	
Quantities of drugs seized	Х		Х		Х		Х	
Number of persons charged with and convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	х		х		х		Х	
Number of drug laboratories dismantled	Х		Х		Х		Х	
R	ecommer	nded Inf	ormation					
Number of persons formally charged with and convicted of money laundering	Х		х		х		Х	
Number of persons formally charged with and convicted of trafficking in arms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	х		х		Х		Х	_



Information	200	06	200	)7	200	08	20	09
mormation	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Number of persons formally charged with and convicted of diversion of chemical substances	х		х		х		х	
Quantities of chemical substances seized	Х		Х		Х		Х	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		Х		Х		Х		Х

Costa Rica has undertaken a study on the social cost of drugs during the evaluation period.

#### **II. DEMAND REDUCTION**

#### A. Prevention

Costa Rica informs that its prevention and treatment programs target primarily the following key sectors of the population:

#### **Prevention Programs Targeting Key Sectors of the Population**

	Estimated	Coverage	Name of	
Population group	Target % population coverage		program	Type of program
School children and university students:				
Pre-school: 4 to 5 years	65,322	100*	Learning to Stand on My Own	Universal
Elementary/primary: 10 to 12 years	179,903	100	Learning to Stand on My Own	Universal
Workers in the workplace	27,416	100	Institutional programs for comprehensive prevention of substance use	Universal
Formal school population from preschool to the fourth year of secondary education	100,000	100*	D.A.R.E	Universal
Parents	10,000	100*	D.A.R.E	Universal

<sup>\*</sup> Costa Rica reports that total enrollment exceeded the projected target population, leading to a coverage percentage higher than the target.



The country is not carrying out programs for secondary school or university students, the street population, families, gender, community, indigenous groups, migrants and refugees, or incarcerated individuals.

The country reports that school and workplace prevention programs are compatible with the principles of CICAD's Hemispheric Guidelines.

During 2006–2009, Costa Rica provided training to police officers, teachers, counselors, prison guards, supervisors, and community leaders. It offered courses or subjects of study on prevention and treatment within the undergraduate curriculum and regional and international training programs. For the period 2006-2009, Costa Rica reported that more than 37,000 persons participated in the refresher and in-service training courses in prevention and treatment, mainly teachers, technicians and professionals.

Refresher and In-Service Training Courses, 2006–2009

Refresher and in Service Training Courses, 2000-2005								
Name of Training	Prevention	Treatment/	Offered to	Nur	nber of	Particip	ants	
Course		Rehab.		2006	2007	2008	2009	
Implementation training for the "Learning to Stand on My Own" program modules	Х	-	Teachers	2,982	8,054	13,094	18,700	
Implementation training for "Paving the Way" – Special Education modules.	Х	-	Teachers	41	23	78	550	
Training of corporate and institutional teams*	x	-	Public Officials or Staff in the area of Healthcare and Human Resources	24	67	92	57	
Resource training for the launch of the GO and NGO Treatment Support Network	-	х	Technicians and Professionals	126	359	568	633	
Tobacco Cessation Training	-	x	Technicians and Professionals	92	121	175	255	

<sup>\*</sup>Includes teachers, counselors, psychologists, administrators, and professionals from the IAFA Regional Offices

The country reports that a psychology program, offered by the University of Costa Rica, and a pharmacy program include materials on prevention and treatment in the general curriculum.

The country reports that until 2008, Costa Rican professionals participated as specialists in the Master's program in drug addiction offered by the State Distance-Learning University (UNED). During the 2006-2009 evaluation period, specialists participated in the following research projects: Inter-American System of Uniform Drug Use Data and the Latin American Drug Researchers Network.



The country has not carried out impact evaluations of its drug use prevention programs or other research studies. For the period 2006-2009, Costa Rica reported that it conducted a process evaluation of its "Aprendo a Valerme por Mí Mismo" [Learning to Stand on My Own] prevention program in 2006; the report was published on the IAFA website.

#### B. Treatment

The Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD), the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency/ Ministry of Health (IAFA/MS) and the Costa Rican Social Security Administration (CCSS) are responsible for or have specific authority in the design, monitoring and execution of public treatment policies, and also provide human and financial resources for the country's drug treatment programs.

The following information is provided on public financing of treatment activities:

Estimated Amount of the National Budget Allocated to Financing Treatment Programs									
2006(US\$)	2006(US\$) 2007(US\$) 2008(US\$) 2009(US\$)								
745,446 1,180,863 1,586,952 5,496,051									

Costa Rica notes that the financial data above reflects only IAFA's budgetary allocation to treatment programs and institutional transfers for 2006–2008, and for 2009, includes allocations from IAFA, JPS, IMAS, support from ICD to NGOs, and from ICD to treatment programs and institutional transfers. The data does not include resources possibly invested in other public institutional programs, such as CCSS or PANI.

Costa Rica has official operating standards in place for specialized facilities providing treatment services for persons with problems associated with drug use. The country has defined the official licensing procedure authorizing the operation of specialized treatment facilities in the Standards Manual for Licensing Treatment Facilities for Alcohol and other Drug Users Over Eighteen Years of Age, and the Program: Detoxification and a Guide to the Licensing of Drug Dependency Programs.

The Directory of Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs for Alcohol and other Drugs in Costa Rica, 2009 is Costa Rica's official register of specialized NGO facilities providing drug treatment services. In addition, Costa Rica has a monitoring system for the oversight of specialized treatment facilities.

Costa Rica has data on the number of cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use referred from the general healthcare network. The country reports that this only includes information provided by the Institute for the Treatment of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA).



## Cases Treated in Specialized Facilities Referred from the General Healthcare Network, 2006-2009

2006	2007	2008	2009
1,325	3,699	2,534	1,791

Costa Rica reported the number of cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use between 2006 and 2009, although the data from public hospitals are the number of patients discharged.

Cases Treated in Officially-licensed Specialized Treatment Facilities, 2006-2009

	2006	2007	2008	2009
NGOs / Private Clinics	7,881	8,510	7,926	n.av.
Public Hospitals	2,873	2,950	3,906	n.av.
IAFA	6,671	9,162	9,048	11,582

n.av = not available

Costa Rica maintains officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use in each of its seven provinces. The country estimates that there were more than 388,000 persons potentially in need of specialized care in 2006, but does not have information for 2007-2009. Regarding the specific annual coverage of treatment centers, the country provides the following data:

Cases Treated in Officially-licensed Specialized Treatment Centers, 2006-2008

	Number of patients discharged from officially-licensed specialized treatment centers for problems associated with drug abuse						
	2006 2007 2008						
Male	9,264	9,974	10,195				
Female	1,490	1,513	1,637				
Total discharged	10,754 11,487 11,83						
<18 years	538	547	694				
19 years to 25 years	2,513	2,567	2,039				
>25 years	7,633	8,318	8,606				
Total discharged	10,754	11,487	11,832				
Alcohol	8,662	8,953	9,131				
Cannabis	3,718	4,136	3,362				
Opioids	15	15	27				
Cocaine Hydrochloride (Hospitals: Cocaine )	3,198	3,618	2,960				
Crack	3,678	4,096	3,463				
Inhalants	682	782	482				



	Number of patients discharged from officially-licensed specialized treatment centers for problems associated with drug abuse					
	2006	2007	2008			
LSD (NGO: Mushrooms; Hospitals: Hallucinogens )	438	380	269			
Other (Specify: Tobacco_)	4,568	5,378	4,882			
Benzodiazepines(*) ( <u>Tranquilizers</u> )	434	402	323			
Barbiturates (*)	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.			
Amphetamines (Stimulants)	259	248	195			
Other drugs (Hospitals: Multiple or other drugs)	814	735	763			
Total discharged	10,754	11,487	11,832			
Outpatient	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.			
Residential	10,754	11,487	11,832			
Total discharged	10,754	11,487	11,832			

IAFA Data	Number of cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug abuse					
	2006	2007	2008**			
Male	5,625	7,483	7,600			
Female	1,046	1,679	1,440			
Total cases treated	6,671	9,162	9,040			
<18 years	686	1,185	n.av.			
19 years to 35 years	3,197	4,274	n.av.			
>35 years	2,788	3,703	n.av.			
Total cases treated	6,671	9,162	9,040			
Alcohol	3,531	4,494	3,981			
Cannabis	769	1,323	n.av.			
Cocaine Hydrochloride	482	728	n.av.			
Crack	1,761	1,924	n.av.			
Other drugs*	128	693	5,067			
Total cases treated	6,671	9,162	9,040			
Outpatient	6,671	9,162	9,040			
Total cases treated	6,671	9,162	9,040			

<sup>\*</sup> Barbiturates; benzodiazepines; inhalant substances; opium; morphine; tobacco and no information

n.av = not available

<sup>\*\*</sup> For the year 2008, preliminary data provided are still being processed. Therefore only two drug categories are considered: alcohol and other drugs.



The country reports that no information is available on the total number of cases treated in unlicensed specialized treatment centers. Costa Rica also reports that there are no treatment centers in the country that offer social programs to help reintegrate patients into society following treatment.

Costa Rica undertakes no activities through specialized treatment centers to follow-up on patients. The country reports that about 60% of its officially-licensed treatment centers are supervised by qualified staff specifically trained in this area.

#### C. Statistics on Consumption

Costa Rica has an estimate of indicators of drug use for the general population, ages 12 to 70. The most recent general population survey was carried out in 2006. For secondary school students, surveys were carried out in 2006 and 2008. The 2008 student survey was limited to tobacco use.

The table below provides the country's prevalence data on drug use in the general population:

Year of Last Survey: 2006	Age Group Surveyed: 12 to 70 years									
Type of Drug	Lifetime (percentage)				Last 12 Months (percentage)			Last 30 Days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Alcohol	61.6	40.4	51.2	44.0	27.4	36.0	32.0	17.0	24.3	
Tobacco	41.0	21.5	31.4	23.2	9.4	16.4	21.3	8.1	14.8	
Solvents & Inhalants	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Types of Cannabis	10.9	3.9	7.5	1.9	0.2	1.0	1.2	0.1	0.6	
Marijuana	10.9	3.9	7.5	1.9	0.2	1.0	1.2	0.1	0.6	
Hallucinogens	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
LSD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Poppy Derivatives	3.2	5.3	4.2	2.0	3.8	2.9	0.9	2.2	1.6	
Heroin	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Other Opioids* (acetaminophen with codeine)	3.1	5.0	4.0	2.0	3.6	2.7	0.9	2.2	1.5	
Substances that contain cocaine	3.6	0.8	2.2	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	
Cocaine Hcl	2.9	0.7	1.8	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Crack	1.5	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Tranquilizers, sedatives and depressants	2.7	2.7	2.7	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	
Benzodiazepines*	2.7	2.7	2.7	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	



Year of Last Survey: 2006	Age Group Surveyed: 12 to 70 years									
Type of Drug	Lifetime (percentage)				Last 12 Months (percentage)			Last 30 Days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Stimulants	3.7	3.2	3.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	
Amphetamines*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ecstasy (MDMA)	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Methamphetamines*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Stimulants* (medical use) Primarily medications that contain caffeine and thiamin	3.5	3.1	3.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	
Other drugs	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Any drug	17.5	11.8	14.7	6.0	5.7	5.9	3.2	3.5	3.4	

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

The country provides below incidence data on drug use in the general population:

Incidence Data in the General Population, 2006

Year of Last Survey: 2006	Age Group Surveyed: 12 to 70 years/ Home Dwellers					
Type of Drug		t 12 Mon ercentag		Last 30 Days (percentage)		
	M	L	Total	M	F	Total
Alcohol	8.4	2.4	4.9	3.3	1.2	2.1
Tobacco	3.8	1.1	2.3	2.4	0.7	1.5
Solvents & Inhalants	0.00	0.00	0.00	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Types of Cannabis	0.43	0.04	0.23	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Marijuana	0.43	0.04	0.23	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Hallucinogens	0.00	0.00	0.00	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
LSD	0	0	0	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Poppy Derivatives	0.00	0.19	0.09	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Heroin	0.00	0.19	0.09	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Substances that contain Cocaine	0.05	0.00	0.02	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Cocaine HCl	0.05	0.00	0.02	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Crack	0.00	0.00	0.00	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Stimulants	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Ecstasy (MDMA)	0.00	0.00	0.00	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.

<sup>\*</sup>Non-prescribed /non-therapeutic use only



Year of Last Survey: 2006	Age Group Surveyed: 12 to 70 years/ Home Dwellers					
Type of Drug		t 12 Mon ercentag		Last 30 Days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Other drugs	0.00	0.00	0.00	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.
Any drug	1.4	2.2	1.8	n.av.	n.av.	n.av.

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

Below, the country provides prevalence data for tobacco use among high school students for the year 2008:

#### Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among High School Students, 2008

Year of Last Survey: 2008	Target Population of the Study: Students of 7th, 8th, and 9th Grades Representative Sample: Yes								
Type of Drug	(p	Lifetim ercenta			12 Mo rcenta			ast 30 Da ercenta	_
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Tobacco	27.8	25.7	26.8	21.2	18.0	19.7	11.6	9.2	10.5

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

In the following table, the country provides incidence data for tobacco use among high school students for year 2008:

#### Incidence of Tobacco Use Among High School Students, 2008

Year of Last Survey: 2008	Target Population of the Study: Students of 7th, 8th, and 9th Grades					
Type of Drug		Last 12 Months (percentage)				
	M	F	Total			
Tobacco	7.8	9.2	8.6			

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

In Costa Rica's 2006 national household survey, the age of first use of alcohol, tobacco, solvents or inhalants, marijuana, cocaine and substances containing cocaine, and ecstasy was examined.

<sup>\*</sup>Non-prescribed /non-therapeutic use only

n.av = not available



Age of First Use of Drugs in the General Population

Population: 12 to 65 years of age 2006 National Study	2006		
Type of Drug	Average	Median	
Alcohol	17.27	17.00	
Tobacco	16.22	15.00	
Solvents or Inhalants	15.54 15.97		
Marijuana	17.58	17.00	
Cocaine HCl	18.80	18.00	
Crack	18.62	18.93	
Ecstasy	20.29	18.00	

Costa Rica provides data on risk perception regarding the use of drugs in the general population. The country estimates that a high percentage of the general population (between 77% and 95%, depending on the drug) considers "frequent" use of drugs "very harmful," whereas the occasional use of these substances is perceived as less harmful (between 60% and 78%, excluding tobacco). In a study of individuals between the ages of 12 and 25, the data is close to those for the general population.

The country reports below on the perceived risk of drug use in the general population aged 12 to 25 years:

#### Perceived Risk of Drug Use in the General Population Aged 12 to 25 Years

Category	% of those surveyed who believe persons engaged in the following activities are at great risk (or who think such activities are very harmful):
Smoke cigarettes occasionally	31.8
Smoke cigarettes frequently	82.8
Drink alcoholic beverages frequently	78.1
Get drunk	91.3
Take tranquilizers for non-medicinal purposes occasionally	64.3
Take stimulants for non-medicinal purposes occasionally	64.3
Take tranquilizers for non-medicinal purposes frequently	83.8
Take stimulants for non-medicinal purposes frequently	83.8
Inhale solvents occasionally	75.7
Inhale solvents frequently	91.0
Smoke marijuana occasionally	65.3
Smoke marijuana frequently	90.0
Use cocaine HCl or crack occasionally	80.9
Use cocaine HCl or crack frequently	95.5
Use ecstasy occasionally	76.6
Use ecstasy frequently	89.6



Costa Rica has conducted national studies in 2008 and 2009 of the prison population and youth in conflict with the law to evaluate the relationship between drugs and crime.

Costa Rica's records on alcohol-related traffic accidents cover the entire evaluation period, but for drug-related accidents, only 2006 data is available.

Traffic Accidents Related to Alcohol and Drug Use, 2006-2009

20	06	20	007	20	08	200	)9*
Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol	Drugs
26%	6%	17%	n.av.	17%	n.av.	7%	n.av.

Traffic accident data for 2009 provided through April 30.

n.av. = not available

The country keeps no records on accidents in the workplace in which drugs or alcohol were a contributing factor.

#### III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

#### A. Drug Production

Costa Rica reports that it has cannabis cultivation and carried out eradication activities during the evaluation period. The country detected and eradicated 21.09 hectares of cannabis between 2006 and 2009.

The country informs that authorities seized small-scale indoor marijuana cultivations totaling 74 plants in 2007 and 337 in 2009.

Costa Rica has detected no illicit laboratories for drugs of natural or synthetic origin.

#### B. Control of Pharmaceutical Products

Costa Rica has the following laws and regulations to control pharmaceutical products:

**Laws and Regulations for the Control of Pharmaceutical Products** 

Title	Entry into effect
General Law on Health	23 October 1973
Organic Law of the Ministry of Health	5 November 1973
Regulations on private pharmaceutical establishments	15 January 1986



Title	Entry into effect
Law on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Illicit Drug Use and Related Activities, Money Laundering, and Financing of Terrorism	11 January 2002
Regulation for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs	7 August 2006 30 March 2007
Regulation on the Use of Fentanyl	17 July 2008
Regulation for the Control of Licenses to Handle Psychotropics and Narcotics	20 January 2006

The country reports that all pharmaceutical products containing substances listed in the international conventions are controlled.

Costa Rica notes that the Board of Narcotic Drug Surveillance, the Division of Health Regulation, the Ministry of Health, and the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs, Unit for Control and Oversight of Chemical Precursors are the designated authorities responsible for coordinating activities regarding pharmaceutical product control.

In the healthcare sector, Costa Rica exercises control over pharmaceutical products by means of health register oversight; monitoring distribution; control and monitoring of prescriptions; inspections; administrative sanctions; and the transfer of unusual cases detected by administrative authorities to judicial authorities. In the private sector, action focuses on import/export control; health register oversight; manufacturing control; monitoring distribution; inspections; administrative sanctions; registry of licensees; registry of the quantities of products sold or manufactured; and free trade zone control.

Costa Rica reports that there is an integrated procedure to monitor and prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products. The Board of Narcotic Drug Surveillance of the Ministry of Health tracks compliance with standards and adopts preventive and corrective measures to monitor and control narcotics and psychotropic drugs. The Costa Rican Institute on Drugs controls and monitors pharmaceutical products that contain precursors. There are coordination mechanisms for action involving customs and health authorities, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Division of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, and the private sector.

To control pharmaceutical products, Costa Rica has a regulatory system in place with no fewer than 80 inspectors in the health sector. Members of the health sector communicate and share information with law enforcement or judicial authorities to report or prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products and to apply sanctions. The country observes that when pharmaceutical products contain narcotics and psychotropic substances, all communication with judicial authorities is channeled through the Drug Surveillance Board. In cases involving pharmaceutical products containing precursors as active agents, communication and information exchange is handled by the ICD's Unit for Control and Oversight of Chemical Precursors.



Costa Rica has no system to compile information on administrative and regulatory activities related to controlled pharmaceutical products, or sanctions imposed in connection with them. However, the following information is provided on the number of permits issued:

Regulatory Activities Related to Pharmaceutical Products, 2006-2009

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Reg	gulated Activitie	s		
Number of permits issued for:				
Import	671	571	511	520
Export	1,399	1,339	1,282	966

Costa Rica offers no training courses for public and private sector staff engaged in handling pharmaceutical products.

Costa Rica has an automated information system to facilitate oversight of pharmaceutical products using the United Nations NDS system to track imports and exports; however, no computerized system is available to assist in the control of pharmaceutical establishments, laboratories, pharmacies, and prescription follow-up.

Costa Rican laws permit the application of penal, civil and administrative sanctions to prevent the illicit production, diversion and illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products, with sentences ranging from eight to 15 years' imprisonment. Costa Rica reports that it imposed eight administration sanctions during the period 2007-2009. The country did not provide information on penal and civil sanctions imposed during the years 2006-2008, and reports that no penal or civil sanctions were imposed in 2009.

Costa Rica seized more than 13,500 pharmaceutical capsules during the years 2006–2009 as shown in the following tables, noting that no pharmaceutical products were seized in 2006:

**Quantities of Pharmaceutical Products Seized, 2007** 

2007		
	Quantities seized	
Pharmaceutical Products	Tablets/ Capsules	
Hydrocodone	2,183	
Codeine	160	
Alprazolam	421	
Clonazepam	172	
Tramadol	60	
Amphepramone	720	
Acetaminophen with Codeine	3,045	
Diazepam	450	



2007			
	Quantities seized		
Pharmaceutical Products	Tablets/ Capsules		
Dihydrocodeine	30		
Phentermine	700		
Acetaminophen with Hydrocodone	1,365		
Acetaminophen-Dextropropoxyphene	90		
Lorazempam	90		
Mazindol	2,548		
Total	12,034		

#### **Quantities of Pharmaceutical Products Seized, 2008**

2008	
Pharmaceutical Products	Quantities Seized Tablets/ Capsules
Hydrocodone	93
Codeine	1
Alprazolam	6
Clonazepam	3
Amphepramone	96
Acetaminophen with Codeine	164
Diazepam	4
Phentermine	510
Acetaminophen with Hydrocodone	210
Acetaminophen-Dextropropoxyphene	19
Lorazepam	7
Mazindol	63
Codeine / diclofenac	185
Dihydrocodeine / hydrocodone	1
Estacilopram	13
Phenobarbital	3
Loratadine / pseudoephedrine	2
Zolpidem	35
Total	1,415

Costa Rica reports that in 2009, it seized 97 tablets of lorazepam, and none of the seized pharmaceutical products have yet been destroyed.



#### C. Control of Chemical Substances

Costa Rica has laws and regulations of national scope in place for the control of chemical substances, in accordance with relevant international conventions:

Laws and Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances

Title	Date of Entry into Force
Law 8204; Law on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Illicit Drug Use and Related Activities	11 January 2002
Executive Decree 31684-MP-MSP-H- COMEX-S, General Regulation re: Law 8204	12 March 2004

Costa Rica reports that all the substances listed in relevant international conventions are subject to control. In addition, most substances on the United Nations limited special watch list and the CICAD/OAS Model Regulations are controlled.

The institutions whose experts and inspectors in Costa Rica communicate with each other and share information on the diversion of chemical substances include the Police for the Control of Drugs and Related Activities, the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs of the Ministry of the Office of the President, the Assistant Prosecutor's Office on Narcotrafficking, the National Customs Service and the Ministry of Public Security. Costa Rica offers training courses for administrative, police and customs officers on preventing the diversion of chemical substances.

The country regularly offers basic courses with general information on precursor control. There is special attention to the various types of drugs sold in the illicit market, with emphasis on synthetic drugs with which police and customs officers are less familiar, and psychotropics and narcotics for medical use that are diverted from licit channels to illicit traffic; personnel are taught to recognize methods of diversion of precursors, essential chemicals, and prescription medications, and familiarized with legal provisions of interest on these subjects and others.

There have also been workshops for judges and prosecutors, and others for employees of corporate users of precursors, staff of international organizations, similar officials, and others, which are basically informational workshops on the operations of the Unit for Control and Monitoring of Precursors. During 2009, a total of 89 person from the following areas were trained: Prosecutors' Offices, Drug Control Police, judges, OIJ agents, the Drug Surveillance Board of the Ministry of Health, Pharmacists' College, Health Regulation Directorate the Ministry of Health, the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) of the Ministry of the Presidency, the Tax Control Police, the Customs Laboratory of the Ministry of the Treasury and the PRAD Group (Regional Anti-drug Program).

The Unit for Precursor Control and Monitoring (UCFP) keeps a national registry of licensees and administers the issuance of licenses. It also oversees imports/exports, inspections, and



transactions; distribution control; final commercialization; pre-export notifications; and the imposition of sanctions, and coordinates action with industrial users of controlled chemical substances to prevent diversion. To that same end, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation exercises control over the transportation sector.

Costa Rica reports that it has a regulatory system with inspectors and investigators to ensure compliance. Costa Rica has an automated system for secure and efficient information management for the control of chemical substance diversion, including licensing and registry for customs control, exchange of information and pre-export notifications. Costa Rica also reports that it has entered into an agreement with UNODC and OMA to implement a suspect container program to train public officers in the use of specialized programs and timely intelligence analysis to control the diversion of chemical substances.

Costa Rica has laws that permit the imposition of penal, civil and administrative sanctions to prevent the illicit production, diversion and illicit trafficking of controlled chemical substances. The country reports that during the evaluation period, 99 administrative warnings and 53 license suspensions were imposed.

Costa Rica exports controlled chemical substances and handles such substances in transit. During years 2006–2009, the country reported 97 exports of controlled chemical substances:

Number of Controlled Chemical Substance Exports, 2006–2009

Importing/Transshipment	Number of Controlled Chemical Substance Exports			
Countries	2006	2007	2008	2009
Nicaragua	43	1	0	2
Panama	32	2	3	3
Guatemala	1	0	1	0
Dominican Republic	0	0	5	0
Ecuador	0	0	4	0
Total	76	3	13	5

The number of pre-export notifications regarding controlled chemical substances issued by Costa Rica to importing or transshipment countries during years 2006–2009 is shown below:

Pre-Export Notifications Issued, 2006–2009

Importing/Transshipment	Number of Pre-Export Notifications Issued			
Countries	2006	2007	2008	2009
Guatemala	1	0	0	0
Nicaragua	36	1	1	1
Panama	15	2	4	1
Czech Republic	0	1	0	0
Dominican Republic	0	0	1	0
Total	52	4	6	2



The country clarifies that differences between the number of exportations and the number of notifications exist because, when an exporter is sending several products on the same date to the same importer in the destination country, they are all included on the same form (MCRN) used for pre-export notification to that country's authorities; when the export authorizations are issued, however, one authorization is issued to customs for each invoice, because each must have a separate authorization number.

Costa Rica observes that no pre-export notification issued by the country was rejected by an importing or transit country during years 2006–2009.

Costa Rica imports chemical substances. During the years 2006–2009, the country reports 1,630 imports of chemical substances.

Year	Number of Imports of Controlled Chemical Substances **
2006	364
2007	418
2008	435
2009	413

<sup>\*\*</sup> Only transactions of pure substances included in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention are included here

The following table shows the number of pre-export notifications for controlled chemical substances received by the country and timely responses sent during the years 2006–2009:

Pre-Export Notifications Received, 2006-2009

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of pre-export notifications received by Costa Rica	169	189	162	225
Number of responses sent by Costa Rica	169	189	162	225
Number of timely responses sent by Costa Rica (maximum 15 days)	169	189	162	225

Costa Rica reports that many transactions involving substances listed in Tables I or II of the 1988 Convention are not the subject of pre-export notifications from the exporting countries, which is why the figure for total imports differs from that of total pre-export notifications received.

The country provides the number of pre-export notifications received from exporting countries during 2006–2009 that were not approved or which gave rise to an investigation:

Pre-Export Notifications Not Approved or Investigated, 2006-2009

•	• •			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of pre-export notifications not approved by Costa Rica	18	03	04	12
Number of investigations initiated by Costa Rica	2	2	0	0



Costa Rica reports that, of these pre-export notifications, those which did not lead to investigations were denied for administrative reasons.

The country utilizes a computerized information system to process pre-export notifications. The INCB pre-notification portal system has been operational since 2006. In addition, the Precursor Unit began using NDS in 2009; the narcotics and psychotropics section has utilized that system since 2005.

Costa Rica seized the following quantities of controlled chemical substances during the evaluation period:

Quantity of Controlled Chemical Substances Seized, 2006-2009

Controlled Chemical Substances	Unit of measure	Quantities Seized			
		2006	2007	2008	2009
Pseudoephedrine Chlorhydrate	kg	3.7	462	0	0
Phenylpropanolamine (PPA)	kg	0	0	0	30

The country notes that information on cases of diversion of controlled chemical substances is exchanged between police authorities and those responsible for administrative control.

Costa Rica reports that it incinerated the following controlled chemical substances during years 2006–2009.

Controlled chemical	Unit of	Quantities disposed of					
substances	measure	2006	2007	2008	2009		
Pseudoephedrine chlorhydrate	kg	0	3.43	0	0		
Phenylpropanolamine	g	0	0	0	29,810		

#### IV. CONTROL MEASURES

#### A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

Costa Rica reported the following quantities of drugs forfeited during the years 2006–2009:



Drug Forfeitures,	2006-2009
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	Quantities of Drugs Forfeited							
Type of Illicit Drug	Unit of measure	2006	2007	2008	2009			
Heroin	kg	87.7	16.7	94.3	17.14			
Cocaine HCl	kg	23,330.37	32,435.10	16,167.57	20,887.3			
Crack	kg	25.51	20.35	30.16	31.36			
Cannabis Plants	plants	661,087	2,328,560	1,421,873	1,992,214			
Cannabis (Weed)	kg	2,454.0	4,786.4	4,809.0	2,064.3			
Cannabis Resin (Hashish)	kg	0	1.5	0	0.001			
LSD	doses	0	0	117	0			
MDMA (Ecstasy) and Derivatives	tablets or capsules	5968	19021	346	416			

The country carries out expert studies and analysis to determine the nature and profile of substances seized; the average purity rates for cocaine and heroin; differences in cannabis plant leaf derivatives; and different physical characteristics of amphetamine-type stimulants.

Costa Rica reported the number of persons formally charged with and convicted of illicit drug trafficking during the period 2006-2009 in the following table:

Number of Persons Formally Charged with and Convicted of Illicit Drug Trafficking, 2006-2009

Number of persons formally charged			Number of persons convicted				
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
1,205	994	1,027	1,305	415	490	673	774

Costa Rica does not have information on the number of public officials formally charged with or convicted of crimes related to illicit drug trafficking.

Costa Rica reports that it does not criminalize the possession of drugs for personal use. When drug use occurs in public places, authorities must confiscate the user's drugs. A judge ultimately rules whether said drugs were intended for personal use or for trafficking

Costa Rican authorities with jurisdiction over the control of illicit drug trafficking include the Public Prosecutor for Anti-drug Activities within the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Drug Control Police, and the Judicial Investigations Agency. All investigations are handled by the Public Prosecutor's Office. The country reports that its authorities carry out a timely exchange of operating information and collaboration with other countries to control illicit drug trafficking.

Costa Rica has developed specialized training courses in the fight against illicit drug trafficking geared to personnel in law enforcement and the judiciary. Such training has not been developed for customs officers or prosecutors.



Costa Rica has implemented the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) in all its ports and has other port security programs in addition to the ISPS Code. These include private security arrangements provided by franchises or dealers, state enterprises, and the Ministry of Public Security.

The entity responsible for coordinating the implementation of counterdrug port security programs and the entities participating in such activities include Customs, the Tax Enforcement Authorities, the Drug Control Police, the Coast Guard, law enforcement, and the Tax Investigation Agency. Port security programs involve the active participation of the private or commercial sector; they are financed by the Costa Rican government with support from international cooperation.

The Drug Control Police, the Coast Guard, law enforcement, the Judicial Investigations Agency, and the Tax Enforcement Authorities all participate in counterdrug monitoring and interdiction activities in the ports. The country has mechanisms to gather, analyze, exchange, and share information and intelligence among the national and public entities involved in counterdrug activities in the ports.

Costa Rica has a methodology to determine which vessels, containers or cargo should undergo a more complete inspection or examination in person. Within the framework of the United Nations Container Control Agreement signed by the country, in addition to review of documents the country selects cargo that should be submitted to a more thorough inspection based on preestablished risk factors.

The National Guard, the Coast Guard and the Office of the Attorney General carry out maritime counterdrug detection, monitoring, and interdiction activities. The country reports that combined and joint at-sea operations are carried out, either with the participation of solely national authorities or in cooperation with other countries. The country reports that information on the number of operations carried out and number of boats seized is not available.

The Law Enforcement units of the Ministry of Security, in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General, carry out arrests, searches, patrols, confiscations, and other operations for the aerial interdiction of drug trafficking. The country reported over 1600 flight hours devoted to fighting illicit drug trafficking during the period 2006-2009. In addition, the country reports that it seized five aircraft during operations related to aerial interdiction carried out by authorities during the years 2006-2009.

Costa Rica reports that it has legal provisions and general regulations in place to control the sale of drugs via the Internet. The Costa Rican Institute on Drugs is the lead for the prevention and suppression of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including controlling drug sales via the Internet. Other institutions involved are the Public Ministry, the Judicial Investigations Agency, the Drug Control Police and the Drug Monitoring Board of the Ministry of Health. The competent institutions have the procedures, investigative techniques, training, and equipment necessary to detect illicit drug sales on the Internet, although not all are specifically designed for this crime. Additionally, Costa Rica has not carried out activities or programs to raise awareness of the illicit



sale of drugs via the Internet for administrative authorities, the judiciary, customs, law enforcement, the postal service or others.

Costa Rica reports that the Ministry of Public Security's Drug Control Police and the Judicial Investigations Agency both offer dedicated phone lines to take calls from citizens reporting the sale of illicit drugs via the Internet. Reports are processed even when submitted anonymously.

#### B. Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials

Costa Rica's Central Armament Office oversees the regulation and authorization of all licit activities, including the manufacture, import, export, transit, purchase, sale, movement, transfer, registration, transport, possession, carrying, storage, and marketing, of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

The country reports that although its laws permit the manufacture of these types of articles and materials, there is a national and social policy against the manufacture of firearms and ammunition.

Law No. 7530, 1995, amended in 1999 and 2001, along with various regulations for implementation between 1996 and 2008, establish administrative controls for the manufacture, import, export, and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. The introduction of and trafficking in proscribed material; the clandestine introduction of legal firearms; and the illicit manufacture, export and import of firearms, ammunition, explosives and related materials are also regulated by law. Sanctions range from two to eight years' imprisonment.

The country reports that it has administrative controls that regulate transactions and transfers of firearms between legal entities.

Costa Rican law No.7530 requires that firearms be marked for their importation, or for official use following confiscation, but marking is not mandatory at the time of manufacture.

The country reports that the Interdisciplinary National Consultative Committee for Control of the Proliferation of Illicit Trafficking in Small and Light Arms and their Ammunition is the regulating entity for firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

The country reports that at no time during the period 2006-2009 was the entry of a shipment of firearms, ammunition, explosives or other related materials not authorized because necessary licenses or permits were not first issued. There were no cases in which export licenses or permits were not issued because the necessary licenses or permits were not first issued by the importing country; nor did the country deny authorization of the export of a shipment of firearms, ammunition, explosives or other related materials because the licenses or permits required by the transit country were not first issued.

Costa Rica has in place a national registry for the importation of firearms, ammunition and explosives; the exportation of explosives; and the transit of firearms. There is no register for other



related materials. The country reports that registries for the exportation of firearms and ammunition, and the transit of ammunition and explosives are not applicable. Information relating to permits issued is kept for a period of five years.

Costa Rica reports that control activities for firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials linked to narcotrafficking are conducted by the police force at all levels and by the Intelligence and Security Department.

The country has a national computerized database tracking confiscation of firearms, ammunition and explosives, but not other related materials. Records are maintained for five years. Between 2006 and 2009, Costa Rica reported that 218 firearms linked to narcotrafficking were seized, but does not have information linking these seizures to arrests.

Costa Rica reports that, with respect to tracing of firearms, data on the number of investigations initiated as a result of a trace request from another country, the number of international requests received, and the number of international traces completed is not available.

#### C. Money Laundering

Costa Rica has three main laws, enacted in 2002 and 2009, that criminalize money laundering and related crimes: the Law on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Illicit Drugs, Related Activities, Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism; the Law on Strengthening Legislation against Terrorism; and the Law against Organized Crime. Costa Rica has established as predicate offenses to the crime of money laundering all serious crimes punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of four years or more.

Costa Rica reports that constitutional limitations exist that preclude permitting a person convicted for a predicate offense to be convicted for money laundering.

Undercover operations, electronic surveillance, the use of informants, controlled delivery, sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses, and other special investigative techniques are permitted by the national legislation covering cases of money laundering.

Costa Rica is a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). The most recent evaluation carried out by CFATF was conducted in 2006.

In Costa Rica, the following sectors and activities are obligated to submit suspicious transaction reports to prevent money laundering: the banking sector; the stock exchange; the insurance sector; the currency exchange sector; the transfer of funds, cash, or valuables; the real estate sector; attorneys; notaries; accountants; pension funds; and casinos and gambling. The managers of third-party funds and purveyors of motor vehicles, jewels and precious metals are also subject to the obligation of reporting suspicious transactions.



The following sectors and activities are obligated to submit objective information reports to prevent money laundering: the banking sector; the stock exchange; the insurance sector; the currency exchange sector; the transfer of funds, cash, or valuables; the real estate sector; attorneys; notaries; accountants; pension funds; and casinos and gambling.

Costa Rica has a Financial Intelligence Unit with authority in the area of money laundering, pursuant to laws enacted in 1998, 2002 and 2009. The FIU works under the aegis of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD), which funds its operations through its budget; the FIU does not have a separately defined budget.

The FIU is a member of the Egmont Group and has access to the Group's secure network. Between 2006 and 2009, Costa Rica received and responded to the following number of requests through the Egmont secure network.

# Information Requests Received and Responses Sent through the Egmont Secure Network, 2006-2009

Year	Information Requests Received	Responses to Information Requests Sent
2006	35	35
2007	31	31
2008	48	47
2009	37	36

Costa Rica places no limitations on obtaining financial documents and registers in cases of money laundering, nor are there limitations on obtaining documents in cases of money laundering subject to secrecy, confidentiality, or reserve agreements.

Costa Rica's entity for the management or disposal of seized and forfeited assets in cases of crimes of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering is the Seized and Forfeited Assets Unit. It is attached to the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs and was created in January 2002. The Unit works with manuals for the management of assets seized on a provisional basis.

Costa Rica's constitution includes mechanisms regarding the judicial disposal of assets resulting from illicit narcotrafficking activities and refers to several laws on the disposition of assets, such as Laws 8204, 8719 and 8754. The country's legislation provides that the assets shall be subject to presale or disposal upon seizure.

Costa Rica provides the number of investigations initiated through a Financial Intelligence Report submitted by the Financial Intelligence Unit during years 2006–2009:

Year	Investigations initiated through a Financial Intelligence Report						
2006	95						
2007	132						
2008	161						
2009	64						



The country indicates that four penal proceedings were initiated for money laundering offenses in 2008, and 13 in 2009. Information for 2006 and 2007 is not available.

#### D. Judicial Cooperation

Extradition for illicit drug trafficking and money laundering is possible in Costa Rica, but not for nationals involved in these crimes. Costa Rica has designated a competent authority to receive, respond to, and process extradition requests. The country's domestic legal framework makes it possible for a national whose extradition for illicit drug trafficking or money laundering has been denied to be tried for those crimes in Costa Rica.

Domestic legislation permits the provision of reciprocal judicial assistance, including the taking of testimony or personal statements; effecting the service of legal documents; carrying out searches and seizures; examining objects and places; providing information and evidentiary items; submitting original documents and files, or copies thereof, related to the case; and identifying or tracing proceeds, assets, instruments, or other elements for evidentiary purposes. Costa Rica has a mechanism to recover assets forfeited abroad.

Costa Rica uses secure technological resources to streamline the flow of communication among authorities handling the criminal investigation. Bank secrecy and other confidentiality laws present no obstacle or impediment to the provision of reciprocal judicial assistance. In addition, substantive and procedural provisions of the law permit granting a controlled delivery request.

Costa Rica presents below the number of active requests for extradition made regarding illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases during years 2006–2009:

Active Extradition Requests Made Regarding Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Cases, 2006-2009

Active requests for extradition regarding illicit drug trafficking			Active requests for extradition regarding money laundering				
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	1	1	6	0	0	0	2

The country shows below the number of passive requests for extradition answered in illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases during the period 2006–2009:

## Passive Requests for Extradition Answered in Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Cases, 2006–2009

Requests for passive extradition answered regarding illicit drug trafficking		Requests for passive extradition answered regarding money laundering					
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
11	1	4	3	4	2	1	0



Costa Rica made the following number of requests for reciprocal judicial assistance in illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases in the years 2006–2009:

# Requests for Reciprocal Judicial Assistance Made in Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Cases, 2006–2009

Requests for judicial assistance made in illicit drug trafficking cases			Requests for judicial assistance made in money laundering cases				
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
11	11	9	10	0	1	9	2

In the period 2006–2009, the country answered the following number of requests for reciprocal judicial assistance in illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases:

#### Requests for Judicial Assistance Answered in Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Cases, 2006-2009

Requests for judicial assistance answered regarding illicit drug trafficking				Requests for judicial assistance answered regarding money laundering			
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
11	19	15	13	0	5	7	7



#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In the area of institutional strengthening, CICAD recognizes that Costa Rica has a National Drug Plan, and the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs as its national anti-drug authority. This plan is in effect during the evaluation period, and has an assigned budget.

CICAD recognizes that Costa Rica ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2007, and has enacted legislation within the framework of those conventions it has ratified. However, CICAD notes with concern that Costa Rica has not ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992.

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs, which organizes, carries out studies, compiles and coordinates statistics and other drug-related information, and a system designed to obtain data related to demand and supply reduction, having carried out priority studies during the evaluation period.

CICAD recognizes that during the evaluation period, Costa Rica offered a pilot prevention program for preschool and primary school students. In addition, CICAD observes that the country carried out a process evaluation of its "Aprendo a Valerme por Mí Mismo" [Learning to Stand on My Own] program, but has not carried out any impact evaluations. Additionally, CICAD recognizes the training provided to teachers and public officials in prevention and treatment. Nevertheless, CICAD notes the absence of the development and administration of prevention programs for other vulnerable sectors of the population, in particular secondary school and university students.

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has established official operating standards for specialized treatment facilities for persons with drug use problems and has officially-licensed treatment centers in each of its seven provinces. CICAD also notes the gap between the estimated number of persons who need treatment and those who receive treatment, and the absence of follow-up on or social reinsertion programs for patients who have been treated.

CICAD takes note that Costa Rica has conducted studies on the magnitude of drug use in 2006 and 2008, and has studies on the linkage between drugs and crime. In addition, CICAD notes that the country also compiles data on traffic accidents related to alcohol use.

CICAD observes that Costa Rica has detected illicit cultivation of cannabis and carried out eradication activities. CICAD observes that the country has not found illicit laboratories for drugs of natural or synthetic origin during the evaluation period.

CICAD notes that laws and regulations exist in Costa Rica providing for sanctions to control the diversion of pharmaceutical products. However, the country does not have training to support those who are involved in the management of pharmaceutical products, nor a system to compile information on administrative and regulatory activities or sanctions imposed in relation to pharmaceutical products.



CICAD observes that Costa Rica has legislation for controlling chemical substances, provides training to control the diversion of these substances and has an automated system to facilitate control of these substances.

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has made national and international cooperation efforts to control illicit drug trafficking. CICAD notes that the country has provisions in its laws and general regulations that can be applied to control the sale of drugs via the Internet. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not offer training for customs officers or prosecutors in the control of illicit drug trafficking, has not carried out activities to raise awareness regarding the illicit sale of drugs via the Internet, and does not have information regarding public officials formally charged with or convicted of crimes related to illicit drug trafficking.

CICAD observes that Costa Rica has the necessary laws and regulations to control firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. The country has a database for gathering data on the import of firearms, with records maintained for five years. However, the country does not have data on the confiscation of ammunition, explosives or other related materials. In addition, CICAD observes that the country's legislation does not require the marking of firearms at the time of manufacture.

CICAD recognizes that Costa Rica has enacted a law expanding the list of predicate offenses for money laundering, and including additional sectors among those obligated to submit suspicious transaction reports. In addition, CICAD notes that the country exchanges information with other states and has an entity to administer seized assets.

CICAD notes that the country's legal framework permits extradition for the crimes of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering but that the extradition of nationals is not permitted. In addition, it is possible for a national whose extradition for crimes of illicit drug trafficking or money laundering has been denied to be tried for this crime in Costa Rica.

CICAD takes note that Costa Rica permits the provision of reciprocal judicial assistance and that bank secrecy or other standards of confidentiality are not an obstacle or impediment to providing reciprocal judicial assistance. Likewise, it is observed that the country permits granting a controlled delivery request.

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



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

1. RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS OF 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999-2000.

#### **DEMAND REDUCTION**

- 2. IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.
- 3. CARRY OUT AN IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE "APRENDO A VALERME POR MÍ MISMO" [LEARNING TO STAND ON MY OWN] PREVENTION PROGRAM.

#### **SUPPLY REDUCTION**

- 4. INCREASE PERSONNEL TRAINING TO ALLOW BETTER FOLLOW-UP FOR INSPECTIONS AND AUDITS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS FIELD, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.
- 5. IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO COMPILE INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES, AND SANCTIONS IMPOSED IN CONNECTION WITH THEM, REGARDING PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.
- 6. IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO FACILITATE THE TRACKING, REGISTRATION, AND THE AUTHORIZATIONS, LICENSES AND REGISTRATION OF REGULATED ENTITIES, OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

#### **CONTROL MEASURES**

- 7. ESTABLISH A REGISTER OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF CRIMES RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.
- 8. OFFER SPECIALIZED TRAINING TO PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROL OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON NEW FORMS OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.
- IMPLEMENT RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF THE SALE OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER DRUGS OVER THE INTERNET, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.



- 10. ESTABLISH A REGISTER TO ENABLE THE COLLECTION OF SYSTEMATIC DATA ON THE CONFISCATION OF AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.
- 11. MAINTAIN NATIONAL REGISTRIES ON THE IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES; THE EXPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVES; AND THE TRANSIT OF FIREARMS FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS.
- 12. ESTABLISH THE CAPACITY TO FOLLOW UP ON ILLICITLY TRAFFICKED, DIVERTED AND SEIZED FIREARMS, WHETHER THROUGH A NATIONAL MECHANISM OR THROUGH THE USE OF SYSTEMS EXISTING IN OTHER COUNTRIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
- 13. REGULATE THE MARKING OF FIREARMS AT THE TIME OF MANUFACTURE.

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