

Belize

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control 2005-2006

MEM

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism



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





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

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

BELIZE

**EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL
2005–2006**



CICAD wishes to thank the following national institutions of Belize which provided information for this MEM national Fourth Round report:

- National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC)
- Ministry of Health
- Belize Police Department
- Belize Joint Intelligence Coordination Center (JICC)
- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- National Human Development Advisory Committee (NHDAC)
- REMAR Treatment Facility



PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is a diagnostic tool designed by all 34 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), 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 the 34 member states, which meets before the onset of each MEM evaluation round to review and improve 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 Fourth Round evaluation period 2005–2006. The follow-up report on the implementation progress of recommendations assigned to Belize will be published in June 2009. All MEM reports can be accessed through the following webpage: www.cicad.oas.org.



INTRODUCTION

Belize has a total area of 23,000 km² and shares a border with Guatemala (266 km) to the south and west, and Mexico (250 km) to the north. It is bordered by the Caribbean Sea to the east, with 386 km of coastline. The country has a population of 287,730 (2006). The main ethnic groups in the country are mestizo, Creole, Maya, and Garifuna. The literacy rate is 94.1%. Belize is a parliamentary democracy, member of the Commonwealth, and is divided into 6 administrative regions. The country has a GDP per capita of US\$6,800 (2005) and an inflation rate of 3% (2005). Belize's exports total US\$349.9 million annually, relying on the principal exports of sugar, bananas, citrus fruits, wood, molasses, clothing and fish-related products. The principal sectors of the economy are agriculture, agro-processing, and services, which primarily consist of tourism.

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

A. National Anti-Drug Strategy

Belize reports that its National Anti-drug Strategy was approved in February 2002, extended and updated in 2004, and will to expire in February 2007. The Strategy covers actions in the following areas: demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, money laundering, and program evaluation. The Strategy does not cover development programs related to the prevention or reduction of illicit crops, or production or trafficking of drugs.

The National Anti-drug Strategy is executed by the following entities: the Belize Police Department, the Belize Defense Force, and the Belize Customs and Immigration Authorities, which are responsible for supply reduction; and the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC), which is responsible for the demand reduction components. Belize reports that lower tiers of government have jurisdiction in anti-drug policy related areas. The country reports that six districts implement anti-drug plans, but provides no further information regarding its decentralization policies.

The Strategy has a budget and is financed through direct allocation from the central government, a specific budget from other public agencies for the drug area, civil society contributions, and international cooperation. Belize provides the following information about its budget allocation for the period 2004–2006.

Budget allocated by area for the Strategy, 2004–2006

Area of the Strategy	Supply Reduction (US\$)				Demand Reduction (\$US)
	Customs	Immigration	Belize Police Dept.	Belize Defence Force	NDACC
2004	\$350,000	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$380,000	\$400,786
2005	\$280,000	\$200,000	\$350,000	\$250,000	\$375,913
2006	\$280,000	\$200,000	\$450,000	\$375,000	\$366,529

The National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC), established in 1988, is the national authority that coordinates national anti-drug policies. The NDACC is a department within the Ministry of Health, and coordinates the following areas: demand reduction, the drug observatory, institutional cooperation, and program evaluation. The national authority has a legal basis, and its head office in Belize City is the central technical office.



The national authority has an independent annual budget. The following table outlines the proposed budget and total budget received for the national authority during the years 2004–2006:

Budget for the national authority during the years, 2004–2006

Year	Proposed budget (US\$)	Total budget received (US\$)
2004	\$500,000	\$400,786
2005	\$500,000	\$375,913
2006	\$500,000	\$366,529

Belize reports that the budget for the national authority is inadequate, as much of it is allocated to cover personnel expenses, and therefore, very little is left to execute programs. The budget allocated to the central technical office is the same budget allocated for the national authority to implement mandates. The country also reports that the introduction of stringent fiscal measures has placed a strain on the NDACC in the areas of program implementation and adequate staffing of its district offices.

CICAD views with concern that the budget for the national authority has been described as inadequate for the years 2004–2006.

B. International Conventions

Belize has ratified the following international instruments:

- Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996 (2 August 2002)
- Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials - CIFTA, 1997 (17 November 1997)
- United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (18 December 2001)
- United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 (18 December 2001)
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (13 August 1983)
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 (24 July 1996)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (26 September, 2003) and two of its Protocols:
 - Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (26 September 2003)
 - Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (14 September 2006)

Belize has not yet acceded to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992), the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) nor the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003).

CICAD notes that there has been no progress in the implementation of recommendations related to accession of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992), the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing



of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ACCEDE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999–2000.
2. ACCEDE TO THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.
3. ACCEDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, 2003.

C. National Information System

Belize reports that it has offices that compile drug-related statistics and other drug-related information: the Belize Joint Intelligence Coordination Center (JICC) of the Belize Police Department, and the National-Anti Crime Task Force. In addition, the NDACC is responsible for preparing and publishing drug related information. Belize reports that the JICC and NDACC distribute information to various school and community groups requesting drug information as well as the general population.

The country reports that it has the following indicators available to conduct a study on the cost of drugs to the country:

Indicators available to conduct a study on the cost of drugs, 2004–2006

Indicators available to conduct a study on the cost of drugs	2004	2005	2006
Number of convictions and length of sentence for drug trafficking	X	X	X
Substance use studies in the general population, among students, or in the workplace	—	X	—
Number of persons undergoing drug treatment, type of treatment, and length of treatment	X	X	X
Arrests for possession and use of psychoactive substances	X	X	X
Number of persons imprisoned for crimes or offenses connected with substance abuse	X	X	X

Belize distributes publications and materials related to the drug problem to libraries, schools, universities, research institutions, and the press and media, and also provides information to the public through publications and reports from the National Drug Authority and other government agencies. In addition, the general public can access drug-related information by calling or visiting the nearest NDACC office in any of the six districts.

CICAD recognizes that the country has made progress in its data collection capacity and encourages the country to continue to enhance its capabilities in this area.



CICAD notes that Belize has offices that compile drug-related statistics and other drug-related information, that it has some information available to conduct a study on the cost of drug use to the country, and that information is made available to the public through libraries, schools and universities, research institutions, the press and the media. However, CICAD is concerned about the absence of a budget specifically allocated for the dissemination of information.

RECOMMENDATION:

4. ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CENTRALIZED OFFICE THAT ORGANIZES, COMPILES, AND COORDINATES DRUG-RELATED STATISTICS AND OTHER DRUG-RELATED INFORMATION.

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

A. Prevention

Belize is implementing drug abuse prevention programs that target key populations. The country reports that school-based prevention programs are implemented with the specific objective of reducing the incidence of drug use in the school population. These programs take two forms: (1) in-school prevention programs conducted through the Guidance and Counseling Program and (2) after school prevention programs. Presently two new programs have been introduced: "Soccer in the Streets" and "Hoops! You Got Game." Both of these programs are life skills-based.

Programs that targeted key populations during 2004, 2005, and 2006 are outlined in the following table:

Programs that targeted key populations, 2004–2006

Key Populations	Coverage	Describe type of program
• Pre-school	—	Stimulation programs, e.g., weekly presentations using theatre and puppetry
• Primary	68,000 (100%)	Life skills program ("Lions Quest" as well as after school programs such as "Soccer in the Streets")
• Secondary (junior & high-school)	16,150 (30%)	Life skills-based programs - use of physical sports such as football and basketball
• Tertiary (university):	2,500 (20%)	Introduction of Drug Education 101 into the curriculum
• Street children	—	Department of Social Services
• Community based programs for adult males	—	"Youth for the Future." Engages adults in skills training as well as job placement activities
• Workplace	—	Collaborative effort between the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) & the Human Resource Department of each company involved with the program.
• Women	—	Department of Women's Affairs, focuses on skill-based activities
• Incarcerated individuals	—	Skill-based programs offered by trained prison personnel in collaboration with the NDACC



The country does not provide information on the coverage of the prevention programs for street children or community-based programs for adults, women, the workplace, or incarcerated individuals. The country reports that no evaluations of substance abuse prevention programs were carried out during the years 2004–2006.

Belize reports that during the years 2004–2006, regional and international training programs were offered. Members of the Belize Police Department, the Belize Defense Force, and the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) were involved in various aspects of drug prevention at both the regional and international levels. However, the country did not provide the number of participants that attended these training sessions. The country reports that these programs do not meet the national demand for professional training in prevention and treatment. A positive step was taken recently with the inclusion of a drug prevention component in the curriculum for first year tertiary institutions.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that prevention activities are mandatory for primary, secondary and tertiary education in Belize. CICAD also notes the increase in prevention programs that are life skills-based, the increased opportunities for training presented regionally and internationally, and the fact that, in spite of this, the country does not feel that there are enough programs to meet its needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

5. CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF SCHOOL-BASED DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PLACE.
6. EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE THE SCHOOL POPULATION AND THE COMMUNITY.

B. Treatment

Belize has not established guidelines or regulations on standards of care for drug abuse treatment. The Ministry of Health does not keep a national registry of treatment services and programs, nor does it have instruments for accrediting treatment services and programs.

Belize reports that it has 36 ambulatory (outpatient) treatment facilities - 24 of these facilities are public and the remaining 12 are private. Both the public and private outpatient facilities offer services to adults and minors of both genders. The country has the following drug treatment facilities: network for early detection, outreach, and case referral (one public), detoxification (one public), treatment and rehabilitation (two public and one private), and self-help groups (seven public). All of these drug treatment services are offered on a national basis.

The country offers treatment centers or programs geared toward specific populations. The Belize Police Department in conjunction with the Community Rehabilitation Department has instituted the First Offenders Program, which aims to offer first time offenders an opportunity for rehabilitation rather than a conviction record. Regarding treatment services for women and adolescents, Belize reports that women and adolescents must still access services through the mainstream system; there are no specific programs for these two groups. The National Drug Council is presently studying the situation in an effort to advise the government.

Belize reports that studies have been conducted to evaluate the prevention of infectious/contagious diseases most common among drug users. A medical survey was conducted among clients in two



treatment centers for the period 2005–2006. This survey revealed that the most common diseases among drug users were tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. Psychosis and malnutrition were also identified as common conditions in this population. As a result of this survey, a coalition of health service providers was established to offer services addressing these areas. Treatment centers were then requested to assess health conditions as a part of the intake process. This allowed health personnel to offer the necessary services as a part of the treatment program.

According to the Ministry of Health's Annual Report in 2005, there were 108 patients in and 70 admissions to drug abuse treatment programs, while in 2006 there were 112 patients and 68 admissions. In 2004 there were two treatment programs in the country, and in 2005 and 2006, there were three treatment programs, with one new treatment center. The country reports that it presently has three private residential treatment facilities: REMAR, Teen Challenge Belize, and PAPI'S Practical Rehabilitation House. None of these facilities are government owned. Recently, a treatment facility was established for inmates at the National Prison by the Kolbe Foundation (National Prison). The treatment program focuses on rehabilitation and treatment as well as on the reinsertion of rehabilitated individuals. After-care assistance is offered through various Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) support groups in conjunction with the NDACC.

CICAD notes with satisfaction the increase in and upgrading of facilities for drug treatment in Belize. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country has not yet established minimum standards of care for drug abuse treatment.

RECOMMENDATION:

7. ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR DRUG TREATMENT, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.

C. Drug Use Statistics

During 2005, Belize conducted the First General Population Survey for persons between 12 and 65 years of age. The results of the survey are as follows:



**General population survey (2005)
Prevalence of consumption**

Year of Latest Survey:	Age Group Surveyed:								
2005	12-65 years old								
Type of drug	Lifetime (percentage)			Last 12 months (percentage)			Last 30 days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total population	M	F	Total population	M	F	Total population
Alcohol	49.80	44.90	47.35	42.00	35.70	38.85	31.00	23.30	27.15
Tobacco	29.20	21.00	25.10	19.20	11.80	15.500	16.20	9.10	12.65
Solvents & Inhalants	1.40	1.40	1.4	0.80	1.10	0.95	0.60	0.50	0.55
Hashish	0.40	0.00	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marijuana	14.80	8.60	11.7	10.60	6.30	8.45	8.40	5.40	6.9
Hallucinogens	0.20	0.20	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heroin	0.20	0.20	0.2	0.40	0.20	0.3	0.40	—	0.2
Basuco, or coca paste	0.20	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.10	0.15
Cocaine HCL	1.70	1.20	1.45	0.70	0.70	0.7	0.60	0.60	0.6
Crack	0.70	0.20	0.45	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tranquilizers/ Sedatives/Depressants	3.40	3.90	3.65	2.20	3.50	2.85	1.80	2.80	2.3
Stimulants	1.70	1.50	1.6	1.40	1.30	1.35	1.10	0.80	0.95
MDMA (Ecstasy)	0.40	0.50	0.45	0.30	0.30	0.3	0.10	0.10	0.1
Other drugs	0.20	—	0.1	0.30	0.00	0.15	0.30	—	0.15
Any illicit drug	16.10	10.30	13.2	11.10	7.30	9.2	8.90	5.70	7.3

**General population survey (2005)
Incidence of consumption**

Year of Latest Survey: 2005	Age Group Surveyed:					
Type of drug	Last 12 months (percentage)			Last 30 days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total population	M	F	Total population
Alcohol	19.70	16.70	18.2	15.20	11.60	13.4
Tobacco	8.10	6.00	7.05	6.40	5.00	5.7
Solvents & Inhalants	0.40	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.00	0.2
Marijuana	4.30	3.20	3.75	3.20	2.70	2.95
Cocaine HCL	0.30	0.30	0.3	0.20	0.30	0.25
Tranquilizers/Sedatives/ Depressants	1.30	0.90	1.1	1.00	0.60	0.8
Stimulants	0.50	0.10	0.3	0.50	0.10	0.3
Any illicit drug	4.40	3.50	3.95	3.30	2.60	2.95



The General Population Survey (2005) provided the following results regarding the age of first use and perceived risk associated with drug use in Belize:

**General population survey (2005)
Age of first use**

Age of first use	Average		
Type of drug	M	F	Total
Alcohol	16.73	17.45	17.09
Tobacco	16.26	16.51	16.38
Solvents & Inhalants	22.51	18.50	20.51
Marijuana	17.17	17.29	17.23
Basuco, or coca paste	17.49	18.80	18.14
Cocaine HCL	18.35	24.30	21.33

**General population survey (2005)
Perceived risk associated with drug use**

Category	% of those surveyed who believe that persons who carry out the following activities are at a moderate or great risk (or who think that it is quite harmful or very harmful):
Occasionally smoke cigarettes	75.85
Often smoke cigarettes	89.90
Often drink alcoholic drinks	74.90
Get drunk	88.35
Occasionally take non-prescribed tranquilizers/stimulants	79.85
Often take non-prescribed tranquilizers/stimulants	82.75
Occasionally inhale solvents	80.10
Often inhale solvents	83.30
Occasionally smoke marijuana	82.90
Often smoke marijuana	88.25
Occasionally take cocaine or crack	88.05
Often take cocaine or crack	89.00
Occasionally use coca paste	85.95
Often use coca paste	86.20
Occasionally take ecstasy	74.80
Often take ecstasy	75.65



Belize does not have an estimate of the number of drug-related deaths. Belize does have a system to collect data on drug content or drug toxicity levels in the body associated with drug-related mortality. Forensic investigation is used to test for drug toxicity levels if a death is believed to be drug-related.

The country does not have an estimate of drug use by recent arrestees prior to their arrest. Records are kept on alcohol and drug-related traffic accidents. Belize does not keep records on alcohol and drug-related accidents in the workplace.

Belize has established mandatory regulations for prevention activities addressing alcohol-related accidents at the national and municipal levels, which are contained in the Road Traffic and Motor Vehicle Act—Substantive Laws of Belize Revised Edition. All prevention activities are carried out using a multi-agency approach and are included in school and community presentations.

CICAD views with satisfaction the progress achieved by Belize in conducting a General Population Survey.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production

Belize has a system to detect and quantify the total area of illicit crops. However, the country provides no figures regarding the total area planted by crop, variation in illicit crops by type of plant, potential production of raw materials, or the potential production of drugs for the years 2004–2006. Belize reports that, to date, there has been no evidence of cannabis plants being grown indoors.

The country has a formal crop eradication program consisting of forced manual eradication. The country reports that the total estimated financial expenditure to carry out eradication activities for the years 2004–2006 was US\$200,000 in 2004, US\$250,000 in 2005, and for January–September 2006, US\$250,000. The Belize Police Department conducted a total of two manual eradication exercises during the months of October, November and December of 2006. These activities carried an additional cost of US\$30,000, bringing the total cost of eradication exercises to US\$280,000.

Belize reports that eradication exercises are costly, as they involve the mobilization of members from both the Police Department and the Belize Defense Force. These exercises have done much to highlight the areas most prone to cannabis cultivation. A decline in cultivation was detected in the Belize District, while the Northern District is the most cultivated area, followed by the Southern District of Toledo. The statistics from January to September 2006 showed that 53,000 plants have been destroyed in the Orange Walk District (northern), while 50,000 have been destroyed in the Toledo District (southern). Belize did not supply information regarding the total area of cannabis cultivated for 2004–2006.

No evidence of the presence of organic laboratories has been found in Belize. However, the country reports that illicit laboratories for synthetic drugs have been found in the country. Three labs producing MDMA (one small lab in 2004, one medium lab in 2005) and methamphetamines (one small lab in 2004) were detected and destroyed by police during the years 2004–2005, and the owners prosecuted.



CICAD recognizes Belize’s efforts to eradicate illicit cannabis cultivation and to detect synthetic and organic laboratories. However, CICAD notes that there is not enough information available to evaluate the country’s ability to detect and quantify areas of illicit crop cultivation.

B. Development Programs Related to the Prevention or Reduction of Illicit Crop Cultivation, Drug Production or Trafficking

Regarding development programs related to the prevention or reduction of illicit crops, cultivation, drug production, or trafficking, Belize does not provide information for this area. However, the country highlights that it has recently completed a National Strategy for Poverty Alleviation in conjunction with the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) and the European Union. This strategy is aimed at the overall improvement of life for Belizeans. It encompasses every sector of the economy, with a strong focus on agriculture, and is expected to provide easy access to much needed goods and services while improving employment opportunities.

The country does not have a mechanism or internal system to evaluate the impact of development programs related to the prevention or reduction of illicit crop cultivation, drug production or trafficking. Belize is in the process of implementing its Poverty Alleviation Strategy and is therefore not able to evaluate its programs at this time. This notwithstanding, however, all of the aforementioned components are included in the strategy, as well as an evaluation plan.

CICAD notes that there are no development programs being undertaken to prevent or reduce illicit crop cultivation, drug production or trafficking, as priority has been given to the process of implementing a poverty alleviation strategy as a possible alternate strategy.

C. Control of Pharmaceutical Products

Belize has laws and regulations in place for the control of pharmaceutical products. The Substantive Laws of Belize allow for penal sanctions to be administered, while the Pharmacy Act provides for administrative and civil sanctions for the control of pharmaceutical products. Penal sanctions applied during the years 2004–2006 were: 2,205 for 2004, 1,688 for 2005, and 1,582 for 2006.

The country has a mechanism in place to monitor and prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products applicable to health professionals and entities authorized to handle these products. Belize has established a Drug Inspectorate Office, which, along with the Chief Pharmacist through the Ministry of Health, is responsible for coordinating all activities related to the control of pharmaceutical products.

All pharmaceutical products containing substances listed in international conventions are controlled by the country. The following areas of the commercial sector are included in the control mechanism for pharmaceutical products: import/export control, license control, monitoring distribution, inspection, administrative sanctions, registry of licensees, and registry of quantities of pharmaceutical products sold. In the health care sector, the following areas are included in the control mechanism: license control, monitoring distribution, monitoring prescriptions, inspection, administrative sanctions, and transfer of unusual cases detected by administrative authorities to judicial authorities.

Belize reports that there was one seizure of diazepam and one seizure of alprazolam in 2004. Both seizures involved barrels of pills. However, the country has not provided the specific quantities of pills, although they were described as “significant.”



Belize reports that it has determined that pharmaceuticals are being offered to consumers via the Internet. The country does not have legislation in place to control the sale of pharmaceutical products via the Internet.

CICAD views with concern that a significant amount of information is unavailable, making it difficult to properly assess the country's capabilities in controlling pharmaceutical products.

CICAD notes that the country does not have regulations or specific mechanisms in place to prevent and control the illicit traffic of pharmaceutical products and other drugs via the Internet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

8. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.
9. CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER DRUGS VIA THE INTERNET, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO IDENTIFY ITS REGULATORY AND OPERATIVE NEEDS.

D. Control of Chemical Substances

Belize reports that substantive laws provide for penal sanctions, while the Ministry of Health has the authority to apply administrative and civil sanctions. However, no legislation exists that speaks specifically to the control of precursor chemicals.

The country has a mechanism to monitor and prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. All substances listed in United Nations international conventions are controlled in Belize. The following is a list of the components of the internal mechanism for the control of the diversion of chemical substances:

Components and responsible entity for the control of the diversion of chemical substances

Component	Responsible Entity
National registry of Licensees	Ministry of Health
License control (manufacture, distribution)	Ministry of Health
Import/export control	Ministry of Health
Inspections	Office of the Drug Inspectorate, Ministry of Health
Control of distribution	Ministry of Health
Control of the final commercialization	Office of the Drug Inspectorate, Ministry of Health
Transport control	Ministry of Health and the Department of Customs
Pre-export notifications	Ministry of Health
Imposition of sanctions	Ministry of Health



Training courses for administrative, police, and customs officers in the control of the diversion of chemical substances are not offered in Belize.

CICAD notes that there has been no progress in the establishment of a legal framework for the control of the diversion of chemical substances. However, the country states that it controls all the substances listed in the international conventions, and has a mechanism and agencies responsible for the control of the diversion of these substances.

CICAD does not have sufficient information to carry out an appropriate evaluation of the country in the area of control of chemical substances.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.
11. ESTABLISH TRAINING COURSES FOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE CONTROL OF THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

Belize provided the following information on seized drugs during the years 2004–2006:

Type of drugs	Quantities of drugs seized		
	2004	2005	2006
Opium	.32 kg	0	0
Heroin	0	1.49 kg	0
Cocaine Hydrochloride	733.72 kg	2,385.86 kg	82.78 kg
Crack Cocaine	1.69 kg	5.69 kg	8 kg
Cannabis plants	63.07 kg	122.36 kg	126.49 kg
Leaf Cannabis (grass) (PROCESSED)	468.91 kg	438.58 kg	684.95 kg
Cannabis Seed	2.52 kg	7.97 kg	1.70 kg

In 2004, 2,371 persons were formally charged with illicit drug trafficking, in 2005, 1,688, and in 2006, 1,159. Regarding the number of persons convicted of illicit drug trafficking, 1,246 people were convicted in 2004, 1,200 in 2005, and 1,021 in 2006. No public officials have been formally charged with or convicted of acts of corruption or offenses related to illicit drug trafficking.

In 2004, 1,353 persons were formally charged with illicit drug possession, in 2005, 1,098 and in 2006, 1,128. Regarding the number of persons convicted of illicit drug possession, in 2004, 1,246 persons were convicted, in 2005, 756 and in 2006, 647.



Belize does not have laws or regulations that permit the possession of drugs for personal use. The country reports that it makes no distinction between possession for personal use and possession for illicit trafficking purposes. It is against the law to possess any illicit substance, regardless of the quantity. Belize does not have any laws or regulations establishing exceptions within the definition of the offense of possession for personal use, nor have there been any judgments issued in the country that found lawful possession for personal use.

By means of the Anti-Crime Task Force and a multi-agency approach through the Police, Belize Defense Force, and the Customs Department, all intelligence reports are exchanged among entities responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking in a timely manner. Operational exchange is also conducted among the agencies of the Center of Drug Control, Interpol, and the Regional Anti-Drug Operation for Central America and the Caribbean. The country has reported that these actions have resulted in an increase in positive results, in addition to more coordinated and better organized operations. The country reports that impediments that have been encountered in ensuring effective information exchange and collaboration are a lack of physical resources, such as radar to detect the movement of suspicious vessels, and military limitations in responding to information at night.

The country uses Joint Intelligence Reports, INTERPOL and its I-24-7 Global Secure Police Communication Network to promote and facilitate the timely exchange of operative information and collaboration between national authorities responsible for the control of illicit drug trafficking. The country reports that a major impediment encountered in information sharing is the inability to respond to information regarding drug-related activities involving airplanes traveling within its airspace, as the police department is equipped to respond to situations on land and at sea, but has no capacity to address airborne threats.

Belize made no judicial cooperation requests regarding illicit drug trafficking during the years 2004–2006. During that same period, two judicial cooperation requests were received and granted by Belize in 2004.

The country provides no information regarding the number of extradition requests made and granted in illicit drug trafficking cases. The Attorney General is the central authority responsible for making extradition requests. Belize has extradition treaties with Mexico, Guatemala, and the United States. The country has not encountered major impediments regarding extradition requests.

During the years 2004–2006, Belize received and granted two extradition requests in 2004. In 2005 and 2006, the country received no extradition requests. Belize's laws permit the extradition of its nationals. The Attorney General is the authority responsible for receiving extradition requests.

Belize has not developed any training courses to address illicit drug trafficking. Its authorities receive training through the Regional Drug Enforcement Center in Jamaica, as well as through short courses offered internationally by countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States.

CICAD notes the progress made by Belize in improving communication among the agencies responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking. However, CICAD does not have sufficient information to carry out an appropriate evaluation of the country's activities in illicit drug trafficking.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 12. PROVIDE NATIONAL SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY, CUSTOMS OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS AND THE JUDICIARY TO ADDRESS ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.**



B. Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials

The following table lists the national entities responsible for the following control activities regarding firearms, ammunition, and explosives:

Entities responsible for control activities regarding firearms, ammunition, and explosives

Firearms	
Responsibility	National Entity
Issuance of import and in-transit licenses and authorizations	Ministry of Home Affairs (Belize Police Department)
Cancellation of licenses and authorizations	Commissioner of Police
Confiscation or forfeiture of illicitly trafficked firearms or ammunition	Police, the Belize Defense Force, Customs
Information exchange within the country among relevant national entities	Joint Intelligence
Information exchange with relevant national entities in other countries	Police (186 countries)
Ammunition	
Responsibility	National Entity
Issuance of import and in-transit licenses and authorizations	Ministry of Home Affairs (Commissioner of Police)
Cancellation of licenses and authorizations	Commissioner of Police
Confiscation or forfeiture of illicitly trafficked firearms or ammunition	Police, Belize Defence Force, Customs
Information exchange within the country among relevant national entities	JICC
Information exchange with relevant national entities in other countries	INTERPOL
Explosives	
Responsibility	National Entity
Issuance of import and in-transit licenses and authorizations	Belize Defence Force (Dangerous Goods Act)
Cancellation of licenses and authorizations	Police and Belize Defence Force
Confiscation or forfeiture of illicitly trafficked explosives	Police and Belize Defence Force
Information exchange within the country among relevant national entities	Joint Intelligence Coordination Center (JICC)
Information exchange with relevant national entities in other countries	International Police (INTERPOL)

Belize does not provide information regarding a national entity responsible for control activities regarding other related materials. The Substantive Laws of Belize-Dangerous Goods Act is the national law that criminalizes the illicit trafficking in and manufacturing of firearms, ammunition,



explosives, and other related materials. The sanctions for noncompliance with these regulations include fines and imprisonment. The country does not provide information on the number of persons charged with and convicted of illicit possession of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, nor does it provide information on laws and regulations controlling the in-transit movement of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

The country has the Firearms Amendment Act 2002 requiring the country to issue the corresponding import or in-transit licenses or authorizations before permitting the entry of a shipment of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Belize reports that it does not export firearms, explosives or ammunition.

During the years 2004–2006, the quantities of illicitly trafficked firearms, ammunition, and explosives are provided in the following table. There were no other related materials confiscated for these years.

Illicitly trafficked firearms, ammunition, and explosives confiscated, 2004–2006

Quantity of firearms confiscated			
2004	2005	2006	Total
137	101	217	455
Quantity of ammunition confiscated			
2004	2005	2006	Total
6,058	978	1,137	8,173
Quantity of explosives confiscated			
2004	2005	2006	Total
0	0	1	1

The following table lists the quantities of firearms, ammunition, and explosives confiscated in connection with arrests for illicit drug trafficking offenses for the years 2004–2006.

Firearms, ammunition, and explosives confiscated in relation to arrests for illicit drug trafficking offenses, 2004–2006

Year	Number of arrests	Quantity of confiscated firearms	Quantity of confiscated ammunition	Quantity of confiscated explosives
2004	37	217	2,205	0
2005	19	111	78	0
2006	20	77	46	1

There is no national database or record-keeping system that maintains a record by date, description and serial or lot number of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials. However, the country reports that there is a computer database maintained by the Belize Police Department, which contains police information. Additionally, the number of licenses issued for importation is small, as only a few business houses are granted licenses to import firearms and ammunition.



What is recorded is the number of licenses issued, as well as the number of licenses revoked. All license holders are required to present a monthly report to the Police on the status of their firearms and ammunition.

The Belize Joint Intelligence Coordination Center (JICC) of the Belize Police Department is the national entity responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with agencies in other countries regarding the control of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

CICAD notes that the country has legislation and institutions responsible for the control of the diversion of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

C. Money Laundering

Belize reports that the Money Laundering (Prevention) Act (MLPA) was enacted on July 26, 1996 and criminalizes money laundering. The MPLA also criminalizes and provides sanctions for illicit drug trafficking, trafficking of firearms, kidnapping, extortion, terrorism and its financing, and fraud as predicate offenses. However, organ trafficking, prostitution, trafficking of persons, corruption and pornography are not criminalized as predicate offenses for money laundering. The country reports that the law does not make provision for money laundering to be criminalized as an autonomous offense.

Belize reports that the law does not authorize undercover investigations, electronic surveillance, the use of informants, controlled deliveries and sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses as special investigation techniques.

Administrative controls exist in the country for the following sectors: banks, off-shore banks, currency exchanges, insurance agencies, lawyers, real estate companies, notaries, accountants, and cross border movements of currency and negotiable bearer instruments. The country reports that there is no stock market, and the casinos are regulated by the Gaming Control Act, Chapter 152, Revised Edition of 2003; therefore, administrative controls are not applicable to these two sectors.

The control measures that financial institutions and other responsible entities need to comply with, in accordance with Belize law are: client registry, verification of client identity, transaction registry, preservation of records, existence of an enforcement official, know-your-client policies, and prohibition of anonymous accounts. Reporting of large transactions and know your employee policies are not required. The Banks and Financial Institutions Act and the Central Bank of Belize Act provide for the existence of independent audits. In addition, banks and financial institutions are obligated to keep records of all large currency transactions and have established banking policies and guidelines that include a threshold of US\$5,000 for the declaration of the source of funds.

Belize reports that no one was formally charged with or convicted of money laundering in 2004–2006.

The country has a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) that receives, requests, analyzes, and reports any information on illicit transactions to the competent authorities. The country adds that the FIU is responsible for maintaining administrative controls and is the supervisory authority in accordance with the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering. It has a budget, which was US\$254,000 in 2004, US\$204,000 in 2005, and US\$209,000 in 2006. The country further reports that the FIU's staff for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 was seven, six and six persons, respectively.



In Belize, the FIU is legally allowed to share information with its counterparts. The country has not signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any country but can share information without a MOU, in accordance with Section 23 of the MLPA. The country further reports that it has ratified a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in criminal matters with the USA. The FIU became a member of the Egmont Group effective June 23, 2004.

It is mandatory for financial institutions to keep records for five years. However, the MPLA Act exempts financial institutions and other responsible entities from liability for reporting suspicious transactions. In Belize, the system is designed to track suspicious transactions and their outcome, but there is no method to evaluate the effectiveness of the system. No sanctions have been imposed on any financial institutions.

For the years 2004–2006, the number of suspicious transaction reports received and investigated is as follows:

Suspicious transaction reports, 2004–2006

Year	Number of suspicious transaction reports received	Number of suspicious transaction reports investigated
2004	35	22
2005	33	26
2006	45	23

Belize reports that it has not enacted any legislation that prevents disclosure of client and ownership information. Therefore, authorities can obtain information pertaining to financial crimes. The number of requests for bank and other financial institution documents and the number of cases in which bank documents and financial records were provided during the years 2004–2006 is as follows:

Bank and other financial documents obtained, 2004–2006

Year	Number of money laundering cases	Number of requests for bank or other financial institution documents	Number of cases in which bank documents and financial records were provided
2004	0	48	35
2005	0	31	22
2006	0	—	—

The country reports that there is no entity or law specifically governing the administration and distribution of assets, nor are there provisions for sharing forfeited assets with other countries. However, Belize states that a special unit within the Police Department was set up and has direct responsibility for the administration and disposal of assets seized and confiscated in connection with money laundering. Belize reported that no property was forfeited during the years 2004–2006.

During the years 2004–2006, Belize did not make any requests to any other states to freeze assets in money laundering cases. The country further reports that it received one request in 2004, two requests in 2005, and none in 2006 from other states, and replied granting one request in 2004, two in 2005 and none in 2006.



The Ministry of the Attorney General is the central authority for granting extradition requests in money laundering cases. The country determines that money laundering is an extraditable offense. The Ministry of the Attorney General is the principal authority for making and receiving requests for international cooperation where money-laundering cases involve other countries. Belize neither made nor received any extradition requests in money laundering cases.

CICAD observes that Belize has legislation to criminalize money laundering. However, CICAD expresses its concern that the law does not recognize money laundering as an autonomous offense. In addition, it notes that the legislation does not include organ trafficking, prostitution, trafficking in human beings, corruption and pornography as predicate offenses for money laundering.

CICAD notes that the Belize’s legislation does not authorize special investigation techniques, such as undercover investigations, electronic surveillance, the use of informants, controlled deliveries and sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

13. **CRIMINALIZE MONEY LAUNDERING AS AN AUTONOMOUS OFFENSE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**
14. **EXPAND THE LIST OF PREDICATE OFFENSES FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED SERIOUS CRIMES UNDER THE PALERMO CONVENTION (PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY OF AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OR A MORE SERIOUS PENALTY), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**
15. **AMEND LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATIONS, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, USE OF INFORMANTS, CONTROLLED DELIVERIES AND SENTENCE REDUCTION FOR COOPERATING WITNESSES AS SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES TO REPRESS MONEY LAUNDERING.**



CONCLUSIONS

CICAD recognizes that Belize has a National Anti-drug Strategy in force that covers all areas except alternative development programs, but also notes that the budget for the National Authority that coordinates national anti-drug policies is said to be inadequate.

CICAD notes that there has been no progress in the implementation of recommendations related to accession of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992), the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003).

CICAD observes with satisfaction that prevention activities are mandatory for primary, secondary and tertiary education in Belize. CICAD also notes that Belize has increased training by providing access to programs regionally and internationally, while acknowledging that the country needs to do more in the area of training. In the area of treatment, CICAD notes that there has been an increase in the number of private treatment centers since the Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004. However, CICAD views with concern that the country still has not established minimum standards of care for drug abuse treatment.

CICAD recognizes Belize's efforts to eradicate illicit cannabis cultivation and to detect and destroy illicit laboratories for synthetic drug production. However, CICAD notes the lack of information regarding the measurement of the areas cultivated and the yield, even though the country reports to have a mechanism for this activity.

CICAD views with concern that there has been no progress in legislation to prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products. Similarly, in spite of the fact that Belize controls all the substances listed in the international conventions and has a mechanism and responsible agencies in place for the control of chemical substances, CICAD also views with concern that there has been no progress in the establishment of a legal framework as has been previously recommended.

CICAD notes that the country has improved communication in the area of illicit drug trafficking in the country, but notes the lack of information supplied for the evaluation period. CICAD also notes the absence of training for personnel involved in the control of illicit drug trafficking.

CICAD observes that Belize has legislation to criminalize money laundering. However, CICAD views with concern that the law does not recognize money laundering as an autonomous offense. In addition, it notes that the legislation does not include organ trafficking, prostitution, trafficking in human beings, corruption and pornography as predicate offenses for money laundering. CICAD notes that the Belize's legislation does not authorize special investigation techniques, such as undercover investigations, electronic surveillance, the use of informants, controlled deliveries and sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses.

CICAD notes the effort that Belize has made to show its commitment to the MEM process. However, CICAD is concerned that a significant amount of the information requested was not provided, and this has made it difficult for CICAD to establish an accurate picture of the country's abilities in drug control in this Fourth Evaluation Round.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are assigned to Belize 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. ACCEDE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999–2000.
2. ACCEDE TO THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.
3. ACCEDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, 2003.
4. ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CENTRALIZED OFFICE THAT ORGANIZES, COMPILES, AND COORDINATES DRUG-RELATED STATISTICS AND OTHER DRUG-RELATED INFORMATION.

DEMAND REDUCTION

5. CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF SCHOOL-BASED DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PLACE.
6. EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE THE SCHOOL POPULATION AND THE COMMUNITY.
7. ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

8. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.
9. CARRY OUT TRAINING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER DRUGS VIA THE INTERNET, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO IDENTIFY ITS REGULATORY AND OPERATIVE NEEDS.
10. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.
11. ESTABLISH TRAINING COURSES FOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE CONTROL OF THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.



CONTROL MEASURES

12. PROVIDE NATIONAL SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY, CUSTOMS OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS AND THE JUDICIARY TO ADDRESS ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.
13. CRIMINALIZE MONEY LAUNDERING AS AN AUTONOMOUS OFFENSE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.
14. EXPAND THE LIST OF PREDICATE OFFENSES FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED SERIOUS CRIMES UNDER THE PALERMO CONVENTION (PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY OF AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OR A MORE SERIOUS PENALTY), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.
15. AMEND LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATIONS, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, USE OF INFORMANTS, CONTROLLED DELIVERIES AND SENTENCE REDUCTION FOR COOPERATING WITNESSES AS SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES TO REPRESS MONEY LAUNDERING.









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