



OEA/Ser.L/XIV.6.1
MEM/INF.2004 Add.4

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

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

BELIZE

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL
2003-2004



INTRODUCTION

Belize has a total area of 22,966 km² and 516 km of border (Guatemala 266 km and Mexico 250) with 386 km of coastline. The country has a population of 256,000 (2003). The main ethnic group in the country is black and its 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\$2,699 (1995) and an inflation rate of 1.90% (2002). Belize exports total US\$207,800,000 annually, which is approximately 30% of the GDP (2003), relying on the principal exports of sugar, bananas, citric fruits, wood, molasses, clothing and fish-related products.

I. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING/NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

A. National Anti-Drug Plan and National Commission

Belize reports that it has a National Anti-Drug Strategy approved by Cabinet since February 2002. The strategy, which expires in February 2007, covers the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, institutional framework and program evaluation and it is coordinated by the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC).

Seventy percent of the budget for financing the strategy was provided by direct allocation from the Central Government and thirty percent comes from international cooperation. The fiscal year budget for 2003 was approximately US\$650,000 and the 2004 budget was approved for US\$700,000. National emphasis on control measures is reflected in this area through increases from US\$13,444 in 2002 to US\$50,000 in 2003 and an increase to US\$100,000 in 2004.

The National Drug Abuse Council, established in 1988 by the Drugs Act of Belize, works autonomously to implement and coordinates the areas of demand and supply reduction, control measures, institutional framework and program evaluation. The institutions that make up the central managing level of the NDACC are: Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance.

CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by Belize to enhance its institutional building capacity and its efforts to increase budgetary allocations to address drug control.

B. International Conventions

Belize reports that it ratified the following international instruments:

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

Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters is still pending. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols have been signed but not ratified by Belize.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002:
 - A) THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR
 - B) THE PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN
 - C) THE PROTOCOL AGAINST ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION.
2. SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999-2000.

C. National Information System

Belize reports that the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology is utilized to collect, analyze and report statistics in drug consumption. The Uniform Statistical System on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) is not being used and data collection is difficult because it is not presently stored in a central data bank. This also delays the process of organizing the data. The country presents data to the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) but not to the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC). There is no mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of its data collection capacity. Belize is currently developing a National Observatory on Drugs. The training of key personnel was completed and equipment for the Observatory has been installed at key points for data collection.

Government entities, as well as the national government agencies and the NDACC, utilize libraries, schools/universities/research institutes, national journals, press/media, publications and reports by the National Drug Authority and other Government Agencies, to distribute information on the use of drugs. The country reports that it does not yet operate a help line that will provide information to the general public. Efforts are being made to coordinate a more efficient system to provide the public with drug-related information. Presently, such information is being disseminated through face-to-face presentations, which target populations at the primary, secondary, tertiary and community levels, to street/abandoned children, prisoners, in the workplace and community based programs for adults.

CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by Belize to improve its institutional building capacity. However, Belize's national information system and data collection mechanisms need to be enhanced to provide a more comprehensive situational analysis and an improved system to evaluate its effectiveness of national anti-drug programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

3. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DATA COLLECTION CAPACITY.
4. SET UP A DRUG "HELP LINE" OR A CENTRALIZED OFFICE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.



II. DEMAND REDUCTION

A. Prevention

School prevention programs have been reinforced in Belize at the elementary school level, at the secondary and tertiary levels to counteract the trends on the age of first drug use. Additionally, the Belize Police Department and the Defense Force have special units that work with the National Drug Council to educate school children and the community, while street dwellers have been assessed for drug dependence. Belize reports that it has an on-going national system of prevention programs targeting school children. These programs also target street or abandoned children, community-based programs for adults, prisoners, and programs in the workplace for the private sector groups. Programs for indigenous groups or specifically for women are currently not available.

Prevention programs
2002-2004

Level	Age	Number
Pre-school	3 – 5 years	5,000
Primary	5 – 14 years	20,000
Secondary	14 – 18 years	15,000
Tertiary	18 and up	300

The country reports that it offers short refresher in-country courses and regional and international training. Nationally, courses are offered in basic drug counseling, drug abuse resistant skills and life skills, support group management psychiatric nursing with a focus on substance abuse, evaluation of drug treatment programs and drugs and the law. Regional and international training is offered in program development and evaluation, as well as drug-related policing techniques. The country reports that these courses still do not meet the demand for professional specialized training in prevention, treatment and research.

Belize conducted an evaluation of the school-based prevention program: the "SAP Evaluation". The country reports that this evaluation revealed that there is a need for additional programs to be implemented since students in the pilot schools showed signs of self-discipline, one of the objectives of the program. Students in the program also displayed an improvement in decision-making skills. The evaluation conducted in the prison in 2002, identified the level of success, which the support groups had. The country reports that inmates were able to identify areas of their drug behavior which had been influenced by their involvement in support groups as well as through the drug education programs.

Drug abuse prevention programs, especially in schools, communities, the workplace and prisons were successful, but there is a need for continuation of these programs in order to facilitate efforts to evaluate long-term impact.

CICAD recognizes the efforts being made to provide courses in prevention and evaluation on a national basis as well as regionally and internationally. However the country is reporting that these do not satisfy the needs of the country. The country should analyze this situation with a view to providing the courses deemed necessary.



B. Treatment

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Human Development are responsible for ensuring that institutions adhere to standards as set out in the Institutions Act. There is no standard of care for drug abuse treatment, neither are there instruments to accredit the treatment services and programs. There is a variety of drug treatment and rehabilitation programs in the public and private sectors, providing outpatient and inpatient care for adult males and females as well as male and female minors. Public services provide for early detection, treatment and rehabilitation and self-help groups, while the private sector provides mainly treatment and rehabilitation. The country also has support groups specifically for women.

**Drug Treatment Modalities
2003-2004**

Programs	Public	Private
Ambulatory (Outpatient)	12	-
Residential (in-patient)	3	1
Clinics (AM / PM)	12	24

**Drug Treatment Programs
2003-2004**

Services	Public	Private
Network for early detection, outreach and referral of cases	7	0
Detoxification	0	-
Treatment & rehabilitation	3	3
Social reintegration and aftercare	0	-
Self-help groups	12	0

The country further informs that there is a system to evaluate treatment and rehabilitation programs.

In 2002 there were 203 persons who sought and receive treatment, 367 in 2003 and 143 to October 2004. No information was provided as regards the number of patients who sought but did not receive treatment. Belize reports that studies have been done on treatment and evaluation but no details were given. Patients are assessed at six monthly intervals at the end of their treatment.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Belize in terms of developing a range of treatment options to its diverse populations. However, there is a need to institute guidelines for minimum standards. The country also needs to advance with the evaluation of programs in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

5. ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS.
6. DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SERVICES OFFERED IN THE AREA OF TREATMENT.



C. Statistics on Consumption

Belize conducted the National Secondary School Drugs Prevalence Survey in 2002 and the results show an increase in the availability and the level of use of alcohol, marihuana and tobacco among youth population. The country does not have an estimate of the number or percentage of youth aged 10-19 that perceive drug use as being harmful to their health and well being.

**Average age of first drug use
High School
2002**

Type of drug	M	F	Average
Alcohol	12.5 yrs	13.3 yrs	12.9 yrs
Tobacco	12.5 yrs	13 yrs	12.5 yrs
Solvents & Inhalants	13.1yrs	11.9 yrs	12.5 yrs
Marijuana	13.9 yrs	14.5 yrs	14.2 yrs
Cocaine HCL	14.3 yrs	13.6 yrs	13.9 yrs
Crack	13.8 yrs	14.2 yrs	14 yrs
Other Tranquilizer/ Sedative/ Depressant	15 yrs	14 yrs	14.1yrs
Other Stimulants	13 yrs	13.8 yrs	13.4 yrs
Other drugs	12.9 yrs	12.5 yrs	12.7yrs
All illicit drugs			13.4yrs

**Prevalence in High School
2002**

Type of drug	Lifetime (percentage)			Last 12 months (percentage)			Last 30 days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Alcohol	77.4	69.7	73.6	60.6	51.3	55.9	40.3	29.7	35
Tobacco	53.9	31.8	43.1	29.2	14.4	21.9	16.9	7.3	12.2
Solvents & Inhalants	3.6	2.7	3.1	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.2	0.7	0.9
Marijuana	29.3	11.3	20.5	19.7	6.9	13.4	10.3	3	6.7
Hallucinogens	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.5	0	0.3
Heroin	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Morphine*	1.2	1.4	1.3	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5
Opium	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.5	0	0.3
Coca paste	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.3	0	0.2	0.3	0	0.1
Cocaine HCL	2	0.9	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.5
Crack	2.2	1.6	1.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.4
Tranquilizers/Sedatives/ MDMA (Ecstasy)	5.9	8	6.9	2.6	4.1	3.3	1.6	2.8	2.2
Methamphetamines	1.6	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.7	0	0.3
Other Stimulants	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0	0.1	0.3	0	0.1
Other drugs	5.5	3.7	4.6	3.3	2.3	2.7	2.4	1.5	1.9
Other drugs	10.2	9.9	10.2	6.4	6.8	6.6	2.9	5.1	5.1
All illicit drugs	37.1	20.7	29.2	25.9	13.8	20	15.7	7.5	11.6

* Non-prescribed/non-therapeutic use only

Belize reports that it gathers data from medical examiners' reports, emergency room reports and drug-related law enforcement reports to identify the morbidity associated with drug abuse. The country also reports that it gathers data on drug-use related accidents and crime, but it only provides figures for the percentage of traffic accidents in which alcohol was a contributing factor: in 2002 was 43%, in 2003 was 58% and in 2004, 7 %. In 2002, the country detected the appearance of ecstasy by drug users. There are no cases detected of IV-drug use, and there is no estimation of drug-related morbidity from the use of injected drugs in the country. The country notes that drugs are used orally or smoked and less so intravenously.



CICAD recognizes the progress made by Belize in the area of data collection, particularly in the area of alcohol-related accidents and crime. However, CICAD observes with concern that there are still no complete results of the SIDUC secondary schools survey done in 2002 and reported on 2003. CICAD also notes that the survey of drug use in the general population is still pending.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

7. CONDUCT A NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE GENERAL POPULATION IN ORDER TO FORMULATE CLEAR DRUG PREVENTION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.
8. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO PROVIDE DATA ON DRUG USE ON ARRESTEES AND ON THE PRESENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE IN THE WORK PLACE.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

Belize reports that there have been no seizures of indoor cannabis cultivation as this is not a frequently used method. Belize reports that there was no evidence of either coca or poppy cultivation. Small areas or "patches" of cannabis cultivation have been detected and this is thought to be for personal use rather than for export. As the areas were considered too small for measurement in hectares, no eradication programs have been implemented.

CICAD's ability to evaluate the efforts carried out by the agencies responsible for drug control measures in relation to illicit crop production and eradication activities in Belize was constrained due to the lack of information provided.

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

Belize reports that no illicit laboratories have been found for organic drug substances. However, one small laboratory for synthetic drugs was found in 2002 with MDMA (ecstasy and its derivatives).

Pharmaceutical Products

The Ministry of Health is responsible for controlling exportation, importation, production, inspection, investigation, regulatory controls, administrative sanctions and registration of licenses and distribution of pharmaceutical products. There is no formal qualitative mechanism in place to evaluate the commercial sector or the health care sector due to limited resources. However, weekly reports from licensees are compiled and assessed so that strengths and weaknesses in the established system for pharmaceuticals can be reviewed. In September 2003, the Legislation to Control the Use of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Substances was revised on measures to increase authority, responsibility and development of a network for information sharing.

Belize reports that the use and distribution of pharmaceutical products by health professionals is monitored using various mechanisms including controls on prescriptions, production, distribution, inspection and other administrative measures. Provision of training workshops/seminars and information sharing has been used to improve the technical knowledge of the relevant agencies



involved. The country indicates there is general improvement in terms of compliance on the part of health professionals. The mechanisms used to evaluate effectiveness in control of pharmaceutical products are:

- Number of licenses to practice issued: 5 in 2003
- Number of complaints received regarding professional practice: 2 in 2002 and 2 in 2003
- Number of investigations initiated: one in 2004
- Number of administrative sanctions applied: one in 2004
- Number of inspections initiated: 5 in 2002 and 10 in 2004
- Percentage of inspections resulting in investigations: 10% in 2003
- Percentage of all health professionals in regulatory compliance

Belize reports that national laws/regulations make provision for penal, civil and administrative sanctions to prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products. In 2002 there were 2,529 arrests with penal sanctions, in 2003 there were 2,290 arrests with penal sanctions. There was 1 administrative sanction in 2002 and 1 in 2003. The minimum penal sanction is a fine and the maximum is imprisonment while the minimum administrative sanction is a suspended license while the maximum is a revocation of license. Belize did not provide any information on the amount of pharmaceutical products seized during the years 2002-2004.

CICAD recognizes that there is an improvement with compliance on the part of health professionals as regards the control of pharmaceutical products. However, it notes the lack of a mechanism to evaluate the measures put in place to effectively control pharmaceutical products.

RECOMMENDATION:

9. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

Controlled Chemical Substances

The country reports that the Ministry of Health has the responsibility for import/export control, license control (manufacture, distribution), monitoring distribution, inspection, investigation, regulatory control, administrative sanctions, registry of licensees, transport control and pre-export notifications of all chemical substances listed in the United Nations Conventions. There are no formal qualitative mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination due to limited resources and lack of training among personnel responsible for this area. To address these problems, Belize has developed the first draft of a new Precursor Control Act, with the objective of controlling the diversion of precursor chemicals. The present status of the Act is that it is now before the Ministry of the Attorney General for review and ratification at which time it will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

The country reports that there are penal, civil and administrative sanctions in place against the diversion of controlled chemical substances. The possible sanctions that can be applied against the diversion of controlled chemical substances are: a minimum of US \$ 50,000 to a maximum of three years for penal sanctions, a minimum of US\$ 100,000 to a maximum of 10 years for civil sanctions; and in the case of administrative sanctions, a suspended license to a maximum of revocation of license. However, Belize reports that no penal or civil sanctions were applied in the years 2002 to 2004. There was one administrative sanction applied in the same period.



Belize reports that during 2002, the country received one pre-export notification of controlled chemical substances from other country, one was rejected, one investigated and Belize sent one pre-export notification to other country. The country provides exactly the same figures for 2003 and does not provide any data for 2004.

Regarding controlled chemical substances, Belize reports that no seizures have been made during the review period. However there is a mechanism in place for disposal of chemical substances and the following methods are routinely used to dispose of seized controlled chemical substances: dilution, dissolving, neutralization, incineration and sale.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made by the country in advancing new legislation for the control of chemical substances. However, it notes the lack of a mechanism to evaluate the measures put in place to effectively control chemical substances.

RECOMMENDATION:

10. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

The country reports the following number of drug seizures and the quantity of drug seized by law enforcement agencies over the past three years. Seizures of crack cocaine, cannabis seeds, cannabis leaves and cannabis plants were disposed of by incineration and under the supervision of a member from the judiciary, media, police senior official and the government chemist.

Number of drug Seizures 2002-2004

Type of drug	2002	2003	2004
Cocaine Hydrochloride	173	281	89
Crack Cocaine	238	218	64
Cannabis plants	187	191	21
Leaf Cannabis (grass)	199	274	39
Cannabis Seed	213	194	56

Quantities of drugs seized 2002-2003

Type of drug	Unit of Measurement	2002	2003
Heroin	Grams	0.00	1,124.30
Cocaine Hydrochloride	Grams	7,540.30	63,474.70
Crack Cocaine	Grams	2,441.60	3,001
Cannabis plants	No. of plants	46,393	198,709
Leaf Cannabis (grass)	Grams	392,463.01	689,878.38
Cannabis Seed	Grams	1,877.70	15,983.32

The country reports it has no laws that allow for possession of drugs for personal consumption. Belize states that the Drug Trafficking Act clearly distinguishes between possession for personal use and possession for trafficking. It reports that 60 grams or more of cannabis is considered trafficking, while 1 gram or more of cocaine is considered trafficking. The country reports that data collection continues to be of concern in the area of drug-related activities.

**Persons charged and convicted for illicit drug possession/trafficking**

Year Crime	2002		2003		2004	
	Charged	Convicted	Charged	Convicted	Charged	Convicted
Illicit drug trafficking	2,529	1,148	2,290	1,225	371 (up to Oct.)	1,246
Illicit drug possession	1,195	1,148	1,386	1,225	1,353	1,246
Illicit drug possession for personal use	2,240	2,000	1,790	1,750	350 (up to Feb.)	231 (up to Feb.)

The alternative to custodial sentences is applied by the judiciary and in the cases where minors are involved, there is a provision for community service and in cases of drug dependent persons there is referral to a rehabilitation center. Five hundred Community Service orders were issued in the period under evaluation, but no evaluations were conducted.

The Joint Intelligence Coordination Center (JICC) reports that several committees are involved in controlling illicit trafficking, although there is no formal mechanism for evaluation. To facilitate operational information exchange and collaboration among national authorities responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking, Belize uses interagency committee (through JICC Monthly Meetings), joint forces/operations (local, regional and international, joint training and interagency information systems/networks). The country reports that the JICC is limited by the non-existence of an electronic intelligence operational system and this hampers the exchange of information on an international level.

The Attorney General is the central authority for making and receiving requests for extradition for illicit drug trafficking. The country's law allows extradition of its citizens. Belize did not indicate whether requests were made to other states for extradition of offenders during the years 2002-2004. The country has extradition treaties with Mexico, certain Central American countries and U.S.A., designed to facilitate extradition procedures. The country did not provide information on judicial requests made to other countries between 2002 and 2004 regarding illicit drug trafficking. There were two requests received in 2002 and two in 2003, which were granted.

In 2002 two requests for extradition in illicit drug trafficking cases were received by Belize from other states and two requests were granted. In 2003, one request was received and one was granted. No figures were provided for 2004. The country indicates that such requests are fulfilled within three months from the date of the request unless the Court identifies a shortcoming in the document requesting the extradition. The Office of the Solicitor General – Ministry of the Attorney General is the central authority responsible for receiving extradition requests. Although Belize has extradition agreements with other countries, all requests must be presented before the Court in an extradition trial at which time, constitutional issues are considered. At the end of the Court procedure, attorneys may appeal the decision thereby delaying the process. Inconsistencies in relevant documents may also result in a delayed process. Despite these however, to date there have been no requests denied by Belize.

CICAD's ability to evaluate the efforts carried out by the agencies responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking in Belize was limited due to the lack of information provided. CICAD considers that, due to the apparently large number of convicted persons for illicit drug possession for personal use, it is important for the country to implement a thorough evaluation on demand and consumption trends so as to develop more effective drug prevention programs.



RECOMMENDATION:

11. ESTABLISH A FORMAL MECHANISM FOR EVALUATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL ENTITIES IN CONTROLLING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

B. Firearms and Ammunition

The Police, Ministry of Home Affairs, Office of the Commissioner of Police, JICC and Customs are responsible for controlling the movement of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related materials to prevent their diversion. There is a system for exchange of information among responsible national entities with regard to types of weapons and ammunition as well as their sources and destination. However, Belize does not have a formal mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the national system.

The country reports that the Firearms Act of 2000 was revised in 2003 and that it is in accordance with the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA). It criminalizes the manufacture, possession and trafficking of illicit firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related materials. There are sanctions for these offenses. The law covers control, importation, exportation, in-transit of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related materials.

The country reports that in 2002, 593 persons were charged for illicit possession of firearms and 550 convicted; in 2003, 512 persons were charged and 492 persons convicted; and as of February 2004, 72 persons were charged and 50 persons convicted for illicit possession of firearms.

The country reports that the Firearms Act 23 of 2003 stipulates that licenses for import or in-transit must be obtained before the actual shipment of firearms, ammunitions and explosives. The law also ensures that before export and in-transit licenses or authorizations for firearms, ammunitions and explosives are granted, the importing country must first issue the necessary import licenses. Belize report that it did not issue in-transit licenses during the years 2002 – 2004.

There has been increased activity in relation to the seizure and the confiscation of firearms between the years 2002 - 2004. In 2002, authorities confiscated 179 firearms and 2,743 rounds of ammunition. In 2003, 198 firearms and 5,143 rounds of ammunition were seized. Up to February 2004, 26 firearms and 284 rounds of ammunition were confiscated. There is no information provided on explosives. In accordance with the CIFTA agreement, firearms must be marked in Belize at the time of manufacture, for importation and when officially used after confiscation or forfeiture.

There is a national record keeping system that maintains records by date, description and serial number of all imported, exported and in-transit firearms. The country maintains a computerized system that keeps records for 5 years. The JICC is responsible for cross checking the origin of weapons and sharing information both regionally and internationally.

CICAD recognizes that the country has improved its record keeping system in firearms by establishing a database of all imported, exported and in transit firearms. CICAD also recognizes the country's efforts in adapting its laws in accordance with CIFTA provisions. However, there is still no formal mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the national system for exchange of information among responsible national entities with regard to types of weapons and ammunition as well as their sources and destination. In addition, the country needs to do more in the area of documentation.



RECOMMENDATION:

12. ESTABLISH OF A FORMAL MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL ENTITIES WITH REGARD TO TYPES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AS WELL AS THEIR SOURCES AND DESTINATION.

C. Money Laundering

Belize reports that the Money Laundering (Prevention) Act (MLPA) was enacted on July 26th 1996. The MLPA criminalizes money laundering and was amended in 2002 to criminalize terrorism and the financing of terrorism. 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, it does not criminalize organ trafficking, prostitution, trafficking of persons, corruption and pornography as predicate offenses for money laundering. The country also has a Trafficking in Persons Act, No. 18 of 2003, which prohibits the trafficking of persons for exploitation purposes, however this is not a predicate offense for money laundering. The country reports that the law does not make provision for money laundering to be criminalized as an autonomous offense nor does it authorize undercover investigations or electronic surveillance, the use of informants, controlled deliveries and sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses.

Belize reports that administrative controls exist to cover banks, "off-shore" banks, currency exchanges, insurance agencies, lawyers, real estate companies, notaries, accountants, cross border movements of currency and negotiable bearer instruments. They do not apply to stock exchanges and to casinos.

The country reports that no one was charged or convicted for money laundering between January 2002 and March 2004. The country reports that it is mandatory for financial institutions to keep records for five years, to report suspicious and large transactions. However, the MPLA exempts financial institutions and others responsible from liability for reporting suspicious transactions.

The law provides control measures in the areas of client registry and verification of client identity, transactions, preservation of records, existence of an enforcement official, know-your-client policies, and prohibition of anonymous accounts, but it does not include reporting of large transactions and know your employee policies. The Banks and Financial Institutions Act and the Central Bank of Belize Act provide for the existence of independent audits.

Belize reports that in 2002, 7 suspicious transactions were reported, 21 in 2003 and 10 as of March 2004. Authorities conducted 11 investigations, but there were no criminal charges, no convictions and no assets forfeited. 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.

Bank documents and financial records must be made available to support investigations on financial intelligence and for indictments. In 2002, 24 cases of money laundering were reported. Of these, 21 requests were made for information which was provided in each case. In 2003, there were 59 cases, of which 56 requests were made and all were granted. In 2004, 13 cases are being investigated, 10 requests were made and granted.

**Money laundering cases**

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
2002	24	21	21
2003	59	56	56
2004 (Jan – Mar)	13	10	10

There is no report on the existence of an entity for the management and the distribution of assets or of provisions for sharing forfeited assets with other countries. No property was forfeited or disposed of under the law.

The country reports that it has a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) that receives requests, analyzes, and reports to the competent authorities any information on illicit transactions. It is an autonomous body with a budget of US\$650,000.

Belize reports that the FIU has investigated 38 cases during 2002-2004. No charges were brought and no convictions were made nor assets seized coming from these cases. The FIU is legally allowed to share information with its counterparts. Belize 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 23rd 2004.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is the central authority for granting extradition requests on money laundering. The country informs that no requests for extradition on money laundering cases were made to other states during the evaluation period 2003 - 2004. 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 are concerned with other countries. It made one request during the period 2002 to 2004 to freeze assets. There were no requests made to other states to lift bank secrecy in money laundering cases during 2002-2004. Belize has received 31 requests in 2002, 61 requests in 2003, and 14 requests in 2004 with respect to bank documents and financial records from other countries. Of the 31 requests received in 2002, 21 were granted, of the 61 requests in 2003, 14 were granted and, 8 of the 14 requests were been granted until October 2004.

In the years 2002 - 2004, 4 judges and 2 prosecutors received special training to administer money laundering cases, 4 judges and 1 prosecutor continue working in their respective fields. In 2003, 4 administrative officials were trained in money laundering, and 48 were trained in 2004. All continue to perform their functions.

CICAD observes that Belize has registered a gradual increase in its ability to address issues related to money laundering by enacting new legislation. However, there are gaps in the law that prevent the country from capturing a number of vital activities in order to combat money laundering, such as administrative controls over stock exchange and casinos. CICAD is also concerned that money laundering is not an autonomous criminal offense and does not include the totality of predicate offenses that are recommended by international guidelines. There is no reported entity to manage



the distribution of assets seized or forfeited. National laws do not provide for the use of special investigation techniques to suppress money laundering and there is no method to evaluate the effectiveness of the system.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

13. CREATE AN ENTITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND/OR THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS SEIZED AND CONFISCATED IN RELATION TO MONEY LAUNDERING, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.
14. ADOPT LAWS TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES TO SUPPRESS MONEY LAUNDERING.
15. CRIMINALIZE MONEY LAUNDERING AS AN AUTONOMOUS OFFENSE.
16. AMEND LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO INCLUDE ORGAN TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION, TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, CORRUPTION AND PORNOGRAPHY AS PREDICATE OFFENSES OF MONEY LAUNDERING.

D. Corruption

Belize reports that there was no new legislation enacted during the period 2002 and 2004 to criminalize corruption. Belize, however, did enact earlier legislation (Part IV of Belize's Prevention of Corruption in Public Life Act of 1994) that criminalizes acts of corruption in the Convention. Belize also reports that it does not have relevant data regarding public officials charged and convicted for corruption offenses pertaining to illicit drug trafficking. This situation exists because records are not kept on the various categories of offenders.

CICAD acknowledges that Belize has National Laws which criminalize acts of corruption, however CICAD urges the country to establish a database that would address specifically the conduct of public officials as regards acts of corruption.

E. Organized Crime

Belize reports that it has national laws to combat transnational organized crime in relation to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes and that transnational organized crimes can be criminalized as separate offenses. These laws cover money laundering, corruption, obstruction of justice, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of migrants, and illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components and ammunition on the international level. The law allows for cooperation in extradition, mutual joint legal assistance, interdiction operations, seizures and confiscation, as well as victim protection and assistance to victims. There is also a special provision for wire tapping.

The Belize Police Department and the FIU are the principal agencies responsible for enforcing laws pertaining to transnational organized crime. Their members are properly screened and trained in their scope of work and are periodically reviewed to ensure their suitability. In 2002, 50 persons were trained for enforcing laws against transnational organized crime. In 2003, 60 persons were trained and up to February 2004, 20 persons received training. There are no mechanisms to evaluate the efficiency of the main institutions responsible for the prevention, control and repression of transnational organized crime. In 2003, one person was arrested for a crime related to transnational organized crime. There is no information on the number of persons tried or convicted for transnational organized crime for the years 2002 to 2004. In the years 2002 to 2004, there was one request received and granted in relation to transnational organized crime. Belize did not



provide information on requests for assistance made and received in relation to transnational organized crime in the period 2002-2004.

CICAD recognizes that the country has established national laws to combat transnational organized crime. It has trained personnel to combat transnational crime and it participates in international efforts to this end.



V. CONCLUSIONS

CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by Belize to enhance its institutional building capacity and its increased budgetary allocations to address drug control. The implementation of a National Observatory on Drugs with trained key personnel will enhance the country's national information system and data collection thereby providing a more comprehensive situational analysis and also provide an improved system to evaluate the effectiveness of the country's national anti-drug programs.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Belize in developing a range of treatment programs to treat its diverse populations. However there still remains the need to establish guidelines for minimum standards of treatment and the evaluation of treatment programs. The country also needs to address data collection as it pertains to information regarding alcohol related accidents and crime, and to the relevant areas of the SIDUC secondary school survey.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made by Belize in the area of control on pharmaceuticals products and controlled chemical substances by way of spelling the necessary legislation. It was difficult to evaluate the ability of the country to control illicit drug trafficking with the information supplied. However CICAD considers that due to the apparently large numbers of persons convicted for drug use it is important that the country implement a thorough evaluation on demand and consumption trends in an effort to develop more effective drug prevention programs.

CICAD recognizes that the country has improved its record keeping system that maintains records by date, description and serial number of all imported, exported and in-transit firearms, by establishing a computerized data base of all imported, exported and in transit firearms. CICAD also notes the effort made by the country to adapt its Laws in accordance with CIFTA provisions. However more effort is needed in the area documentation and the evaluation of the national system for exchange of information among responsible national entities with regard to types of weapons and ammunition.

CICAD observes that Belize has increased its ability to address issues related to money laundering by enacting new legislation. However there are gaps in the law that prevent the country from capturing a number of vital activities needed to combat money laundering. CICAD is also concerned that Belize does not consider money laundering an autonomous criminal offense and does not include the totality of recommended predicate offenses. Further, its National laws do not provide for the use of special investigations to suppress money laundering.

CICAD recognizes that the country has established laws to combat transnational organized crime, personnel have been trained and the country participates internationally.

CICAD notes with satisfaction the efforts made by Belize to continue its commitment to the MEM Process.



VI. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are assigned to Belize in order to assist the country in strengthening its policies to combat the problem of drugs and related activities and increase multilateral cooperation in the Hemisphere:

INSTITUTION BUILDING

1. RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002:
 - A) THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR
 - B) THE PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN
 - C) THE PROTOCOL AGAINST ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION.
2. SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999-2000.
3. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DATA COLLECTION CAPACITY.
4. SET UP A DRUG "HELP LINE" OR A CENTRALIZED OFFICE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

DEMAND REDUCTION

5. ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS.
6. DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SERVICES OFFERED IN THE AREA OF TREATMENT.
7. CONDUCT A NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE GENERAL POPULATION IN ORDER TO FORMULATE CLEAR DRUG PREVENTION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.
8. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO PROVIDE DATA ON DRUG USE ON ARRESTEES AND ON THE PRESENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE IN THE WORK PLACE.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

9. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.
10. ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.



CONTROL MEASURES

11. ESTABLISH A FORMAL MECHANISM FOR EVALUATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL ENTITIES IN CONTROLLING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.
12. ESTABLISH OF A FORMAL MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL ENTITIES WITH REGARD TO TYPES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AS WELL AS THEIR SOURCES AND DESTINATION.
13. CREATE AN ENTITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND/OR THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS SEIZED AND CONFISCATED IN RELATION TO MONEY LAUNDERING, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.
14. ADOPT LAWS TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES TO SUPPRESS MONEY LAUNDERING.
15. CRIMINALIZE MONEY LAUNDERING AS AN AUTONOMOUS OFFENSE.
16. AMEND LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO INCLUDE ORGAN TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION, TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, CORRUPTION AND PORNOGRAPHY AS PREDICATE OFFENSES OF MONEY LAUNDERING.