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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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

Costa Rica

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

2022



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COSTA RICA

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences

EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2022

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PREFACE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBJECTIVE**1**

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

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

Costa Rica does not implement or participate in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, or dismantle laboratories or installations used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations.

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

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

The following agencies in charge of drug control in Costa Rica implement policies promoting gender mainstreaming:

- Judicial Branch.
- Drug Control Police.
- Air Surveillance Service
- Border Police.
- National Police Academy.
- National Coast Guard Service.
- Law Enforcement.

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

Costa Rica has programs and strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints.

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

Costa Rica has the following laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking:

- Law 8204 on psychotropics and narcotics.
- Law 8754 against Organized Crime, Articles 15, 16, and 19 .
- Law 7425 on Search, Seizure, and Review of Private Documents and Intervention of Communications.
- Country Strategy for Institutional Strengthening in the Interdiction of Drugs and Chemical Precursors in Costa Rica.

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

Costa Rica has updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes.

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

Costa Rica implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. The Costa Rican Drug Institute supports this work through the SICORE Consultation and Registration System, which provides the police with tools to identify organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. The various police units also use criminal activity reports, verification of confidential information, and complex investigations through police intelligence.

The country carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. At the police unit level, this cooperation and collaboration is achieved through antidrug operations targeting areas of interest, with inter-institutional participation, information-sharing with similar police agencies and operational management.

At the administrative level, the Chemical Precursors Unit of the Costa Rican Drug Institute does the following:

- Provides assistance and technical advice and coordinates interventions with customs agents, the Joint Control Unit of the Suspicious Containers Program, officers of the Drug Control Police (PCD), the Judicial Investigation Body (OIJ) and prosecutors on matters related to the unit. These include:
 - Consultations on substances or products and whether they can be controlled as precursors or essential chemicals and the applicable administrative regulations that may have been

violated

- Consultations on shipments of controlled products in transit with counterpart authorities in destination countries to verify the legitimacy of the transaction, in coordination with customs agencies at land borders
 - Police units are transferred for investigation of irregular cases detected through administrative controls
 - Joint operations are carried out in the case of seizures of chemical substances, to define which substances are catalogued as precursors or essential chemicals, for differentiated seizure (according to type of crime). Field tests are conducted with Hazmat equipment to identify chemical products; those not checked are sent to the Ministry of Health for elimination
 - Advice is provided for the transfer of seized chemical products, considering security measures and possible incompatibility between substances
 - Arrangements are made with specialized entities to eliminate seized products. There are two options: a) contracting services with accredited companies, which are paid for using resources seized from drug trafficking; small amounts of chemical products in good conditions are donated to higher education centers; otherwise, they are disposed of through an agreement with the Waste Treatment Laboratory of the University of Costa Rica
- Matters of interest are shared with other administrative authorities, customs stations, health authorities, and others, as well as police and/or judicial bodies, according to their areas of jurisdiction, with regard to warnings issued by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) based on information compiled and analyzed in different global monitoring programs such as the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS), the Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids' Illicit Distribution and Sales (OPIOIDS), the Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS), the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and others

The Prosecutor's Office coordinates with police units in the investigation and dismantling of criminal groups involved in drug trafficking.

Costa Rica has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, such as the ORION program and the Joint Patrol Agreement with the United States.

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

Costa Rica's Analytical Chemistry Laboratory of the Judicial Investigation Body, is responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and

synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS. Since 2020, it implements a cooperation project, ending in 2022, with the University of West Virginia, to strengthen Costa Rica's technical-scientific framework through specialized consultation and training for adopting international quality management guidelines and standards. Most training is provided through international cooperation and includes courses for safe handling of pharmaceuticals, NPS, and fentanyl, analysis of pharmaceuticals using Raman spectroscopy, and analysis of drug data in gas chromatography with mass detector using MassHunter software. In addition, in 2020 two staff members of the Analytical Chemistry Section participated in an INCB workshop on safe handling and interdiction of non-medical synthetic opioids (4 hours).

Costa Rica has mechanisms to facilitate and share information at the national level among governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS. In this sense, information is periodically provided to the Costa Rican Drug Institute through the Information and Statistics Portal (PENSTAT) of the Information and Statistics Unit (UIE) of the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD), wherein specific usernames and passwords are used to enter the module assigned for sharing information on chemical analyses.

In the case of precursors and essential chemicals, this is done as follows:

At the international level:

The ICD's Chemical Precursors Control and Monitoring Unit (UCPF) is registered with the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) PEN Online system for exchanging notices prior to export, to share information in real time with counterpart authorities in exporting countries (when Costa Rica imports) or importing countries (when shipments of controlled products are sent abroad), in order to verify the legitimacy of transactions involving precursors or essential chemicals and to prevent diversion thereof.

The unit also participates in the system for communicating incidents related to precursors (PICS) and the IONICS system. Both are global repositories that the INCB has made available to all types of authorities (regulatory, police, and judicial) so that each in their field is able to provide information that proves to be valuable for profiling routes, operating methods, points of manufacture or distribution, and other information. All this information is essential for acting proactively to address emerging threats.

At the regional level:

The UCFP arranged the access to the Central American Single Declaration (DUCA) operated by the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), which allows registered authorities to track shipments in international transit by land through Central America.

The system allows the user to see transit declarations from the country of origin, the countries through which shipments transit, and the destination country. It also allows registered authorities to know when transit began, how long it took to go from one border to the next, what products are being transported, who the exporter is, who the importer is, as well as other data of interest for monitoring.

The Central American Single Transit Declaration form (DUCA-T) summarizes all information related to shipment in transit by land and is a uniform, easily-understood form for authorities in all Central American countries. The system also allows for downloading invoices and manifests to validate information in the DUCA-T. Access to this information reduces the possibility of false declarations regarding the identity of merchandise.

At the national level:

The Single Foreign Trade Window (VUCE) system operated by the Foreign Trade Promoter (PROCOMER) permits the verification of non-tariff requirements (authorization of entry and departure from the UCFP for controlled products) and transmission to the Computer Technology for Customs Control system (TICA), thus facilitating the exchange of information on international trade transactions and joint UCFP-National Customs Service control.

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

Costa Rica does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet.

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

Costa Rica has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes, through ongoing communications with private enterprise by the police forces and, in the case of precursors and essential chemicals, the UCFP maintains close communication with industries using precursors, essential chemicals, and controlled equipment.

User industries include importers, exporters, local retailers, and companies that use the products or equipment in their productive processes.

There is an on-line system called Precursors online (PEL) through which information is shared,

reports are received on the movement of precursors (local purchase, import, sale, use, etc.), as well as the placement, transfer, or disposal of equipment ending its useful life (destruction). The system also allows for increasing quotas or including other substances in licenses, license renewal and other actions. Information is also exchanged regarding various warnings and notices on cancelled or suspended licenses.

The system has allowed for a good level of interaction and for improving cross-checks, with the support of industry, in order to prevent the diversion of controlled substances, products, and equipment.

In addition, the ICD website publishes standards and procedural requirements and provides a section for online and totally confidential complaints.

Costa Rica uses tools and resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. In this sense, with regard to Precursors and Essential Chemicals and in accordance with various resolutions and recommendations in INCB reports, including: 2008 Precursors Reports, paragraph 57 and paragraph 92, 2009, paragraph 103 and 2015, paragraph 135, controls have been implemented to monitor and oversee the distribution and internal marketing of precursors and essential chemicals. In particular, the PEL system is a highly valuable tool for these tasks.

As recommended in the 2016 INCB report (paragraph P204), the UCFP, as the National Authority Competent in the area of precursors, participates in multilateral mechanisms and operations periodically organized by the INCB, based on a clear understanding that information on incidents, routes, operating methods, and other data shared through multilateral systems such as PICS or IONICS are vitally important for the development of investigations, analysis of intelligence, and adoption of multilateral measures to reduce problems arising from illegal trafficking of precursors and drugs. Although Costa Rica is not a producer of primary chemical substances (precursors, pre-precursors), its territory could be used as a point of transit, transshipment, or distribution, as occurs with the trafficking of natural drugs, so that participating in multilateral systems for information-sharing and monitoring what is happening at the regional or global level is extremely important.

In legal trade, PEN Online is highly valuable for the traceability of shipments occurring in international trade and in Costa Rica. It is firmly committed to responding promptly to pre-export notifications received, which are previously corroborated with the declared importers.

In the case of NPS, the Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Analytical Chemistry, has received training with the International Narcotics Control Board.

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

Costa Rica has national authorities with an appropriate budget, human and material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets. Provision is made for these functions in Law 8204, Articles 139 and 140.

The country's competent personnel receive ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets. In this sense, feedback is provided regarding the handling of assets seized and forfeited under the national laws of Costa Rica and Paraguay, through the project on "Technical Cooperation on Good Practices Related to the Management of Seized and Forfeited Assets." (September 2021-December 2022), whereby Costa Rica, as a cooperating country, conducts a series of virtual conferences on various subjects related to good practices in the management of seized and forfeited assets, making it possible to enhance capabilities for understanding, analyzing, and making decisions to address problems related to the handling of assets.

OBJECTIVE

2

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

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

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

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

Costa Rica improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of updated equipment and the acquisition of new technologies. In this sense, the laboratory for analysis of seized drugs belonging to the Analytical Chemistry Section of the Judicial Branch has instrumentation similar to that used in drug analysis laboratories at the international level (UV/VIS and FTIR spectrophotometry, liquid and gas chromatography, RAMAN spectrophotometry, as well as gas chromatography with mass detection). Methodologies are developed, implemented, and validated following guidelines established by various organizations at the international level (United Nations, Drug Enforcement Administration - DEA, and forensic experts' working groups) and comply with quality standards established under ISO standard 17025:2017, ILAC G19, and the documents of the National Accreditation Board of the American National Standards Institute (ANAB).

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

Costa Rica does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by NPS and emerging illicit synthetic drugs.

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

Costa Rica participates in the INCB's Project ION. The Unit for the Control and Supervision of Precursors (UCFP) of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs, functions as the focal point of this Project.

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

Costa Rica does not have legislation or innovative regulatory approaches to the control of synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

OBJECTIVE
3

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

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

Costa Rica’s Precursors Control and Monitoring Unit (UCFP), a specialized agency of the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD), is the competent national authority for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances.

The country has developed the following instruments and mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances:

- Publication of current regulations
- Publication of procedural requirements
- Guide for users of precursors, essential chemicals, and controlled machines
- Receipt of complaints
- Online system for handling procedures and managing reports

Costa Rica has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances.

The country’s competent authorities carry out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle controlled chemical substances, as shown in the following table:

Name of competent authority	Does it carry out regular inspections and audits?	Is it responsible for controlling domestic trade?	Does it consider the CICAD Model Regulations?
Precursors Control and Monitoring Unit (UCFP) of the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD)	Yes, annually	Yes	Yes

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

Costa Rica carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. In this sense, the personnel of the UFCP participates in the Incident Communication System of the International Operations Project on New Psychoactive Substances (IONICS), the International Narcotics Control Board's Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) as well as the INCB e-learning training events, use of the United Nations synthetic drugs toolkit and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) early warning system.

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

Costa Rica has Law 8204 and its general regulations, which incorporate the control measures in Article 12, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities.

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

Costa Rica has incorporated in its legislation the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 8 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
Control all persons and enterprises engaged in the manufacture and distribution of controlled chemical substances	X	
Control, under license, the establishment and premises in which manufacture or distribution of controlled chemical substances may take place	X	
Require that licensees obtain a permit for manufacturing or distributing controlled chemical substances	X	
Prevent the accumulation of controlled chemical substances in the possession of manufacturers and distributors, in excess of the quantities required for the normal conduct of business and the prevailing market conditions	X	

The country has incorporated in its legislation the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
A system to monitor international trade in controlled chemical substances to facilitate the identification of suspicious transactions	X	

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

Costa Rica requests the information listed in Article 12, Paragraph 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

As an additional measure for control of chemical precursors, the country controls international traffic by land through the Single Central American Transit Declaration system (DUCA-T) of the Central American Economic Integration Secretariat (SIECA) and in collaboration with customs personnel at the northern and southern borders. In addition, Costa Rica participates in activities of the Container Control Program (OMA-UNODC).

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

Costa Rica uses the pre-export notification system (PEN Online) of the INCB with regard to controlled chemical substances.

The country uses the INCB's PICS system.

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

Costa Rica receives the following training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances:

Training Programs	Institution in charge (national or international)
Toolkit on synthetic drugs - UNODC	UNODC
E-Learning Individualized Training Environment (ELITE) Six-module course focused on awareness and safe handling of substances related to fentanyl and other opioids. This program will be implemented in 2022 both for UCFP and Ministry of Health personnel responsible for control of narcotics and psychotropics for medical use.	UNODC

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

There are budgetary mechanisms in Costa Rica to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. In this sense, Law 8204 allows the inclusion of specific resources seized from drug trafficking to meet the requirements of the authorities responsible for the work of preventing drug use and crimes, for control, and enforcement of the law. These resources have been used to acquire Elite Hazmat equipment, for the preliminary identification of chemical substances, synthetic drugs, natural drugs, fentanyl derivatives, and other substances. This equipment allows the updating of spectral libraries in order to adapt them to conditions detected in the illicit market. Personnel who work in control and monitoring of precursors have protective equipment and have been trained to prevent at-risk situations when called upon to do field work involving unknown substances.

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

Costa Rica uses the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The UCFP is responsible for exercising control over import, export, re-export, and international traffic in substances called precursors and essential chemicals. In addition, it is responsible for monitoring the use of these substances within national territory. All this is part of the controls established in the model regulations. Many of the provisions of the model regulations are incorporated in national regulations, such as in Law 8204 and its general regulations.

OBJECTIVE
4

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

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

Costa Rica has special processes for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The average time it takes to issue import or export permits is shown in the following table:

Product type	Average time to issue import permits	Average time to issue export permits
Narcotic or psychotropic raw materials for the manufacture of medicines	15 to 22 days	15 to 22 days
Medication containing narcotic or psychotropic drugs	15 to 22 days	15 to 22 days
Analytical patterns classified as narcotic or psychotropic	15 to 22 days	15 to 22 days
Medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country	2 to 3 days	2 to 3 days

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

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

Costa Rica does not have training and/or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

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

Costa Rica has the following regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances

subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes:

- Law 8204
- Regulations for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs No. No. 37111-S
- Regulations on Digital Prescription No. 39984.S.

OBJECTIVE

5

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

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

Costa Rica has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. In this sense, on behalf of the Costa Rican Drug Institute, the Precursors and Essential Chemicals Control and Monitoring Unit asks for the following information:

- Name of establishment
- Type of activity (manufacturer, wholesale or retail distributor, importer, exporter)
- Location
- Legal representative
- Technical regent
- Controlled products handled
- Annual quota
- Shareholders and directors

The Ministry of Health asks for the following information:

- Name of the laboratory or pharmacy
- Name and pharmaceutical form of the product
- Product presentation
- Health registry number and effective date
- Product concentration
- Quantities in stock

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

Costa Rica carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

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

Costa Rica has the following penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances:

Type of Penalty	Year when it was last updated
Criminal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 8204 - 8/13/2013 • General Health Law - 1/25/2022 • Law 7594 (penal code) - 8/24/2021
Civil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 63 – 4/14/2021
Administrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 8204 – 8/13/2013 • General Health Law – 1/25/2022 • Executive decree 37111 (Regulations for Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs – 9/4/2017

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

Costa Rica does not offer periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

The country shares information with the following regional and global systems on the diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances: Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), Incident Communication System of the International Operations Project on New Psychoactive Substances (IONICS), Global Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids’ Illicit Distribution and Sales Project (OPIOIDS), and the International Narcotics Control Board’s (INCB) Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Program.

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

In Costa Rica, the Ministry of Health uses the International Narcotics Control Board’s (INCB) International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES).

The country has received training on the INCB’s I2ES system.

OBJECTIVE

6

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

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

Costa Rica implements and participates in the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations:

- At the Judicial School, the Investigative Body conducts refresher courses on investigative techniques and seeks a unified approach on how to investigate the subject of drug trafficking. In the case of the Ministry of Security, training is provided through the programs established by the National Police School.
- The Prosecutor’s Office provides United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) training through the Ibero-American Network of Anti-drug Prosecutors and also through the Training Unit of the Public Prosecutor’s Office.
- There is also the Strategic Intervention of the Sub-pillar on “Drugs and Crime: Drug Trafficking” of the 2020-2024 National Plan on Drugs, Money Laundering, and Terrorism Financing: “Police Intelligence: A Comprehensive Effort.”

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

Costa Rica implements and participates in the following periodic training programs and capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering:

- National Risk Assessment (NRA) and the Plan of Action for Compliance with the FATF International Standards and the Mutual Evaluation Process
- Exchange of knowledge with the Colombian police through Ameripol programs, courses with the United States of America Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), the International Crime Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organized Crime (PACCTO), as well as training through programs established by the National Police School of the Ministry of Public Security
- In the case of the Prosecutor’s Office, through invitations from international agencies dedicated to combating corruption and money laundering

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

Costa Rica has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information at the domestic, regional, and international level to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations. Also, through meetings between police units on the exchange of information, the Directorate of Intelligence and National Security (DIS), as well as with the DEA, and various agreements signed between Costa Rica and other countries for the exchange of intelligence information.

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

Costa Rica has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. In this sense, the country participates in the Airport Communications Program (AIRCOP), in the Container Control Programme (CCP) of the UNODC, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and INTERPOL, for the purpose of creating inter-agency operating groups to strengthen the capacities of national institutions operating at designated airports and ports, respectively, to detect and intercept drugs, among other illicit items.

In addition, the Ministry of Public Security, as a result of the growing demand to address criminal phenomena, as well as the need to coordinate its work for effective operations management, saw the opportunity to concentrate its operational efforts in a single location. In this sense, starting in the year 2018, it has been conducting the “Joint Operations Center,” through the Law of Creation of the Joint Operations Center of the Ministry of Public Security (published August 18, 2021), which includes the principal police forces. The Center began to operate by incorporating the National Coast Guard System, the Air Surveillance Service, as well as the Police Force; subsequently, in the year 2019, the Border Police were added, thus achieving full control of the air, maritime, and land areas of Costa Rican territory.

The Center currently provides coordinating service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, using the latest technological platforms to maximize the efficiency of the citizen security service. It is an office that centralizes and coordinates the use of available land, river, maritime, and air resources for the coordination and integration of operations within the national territory of Costa Rica, in order to achieve the operational synergy needed to obtain tangible results. In addition, the Center assumes leadership when coordinating with strategic partners for operations requiring the use of national or international resources.

Unification of the intelligence received by the different police forces of the Ministry of Public Security provides a series of benefits that are essential in the fight against organized crime. The

implementation of a methodology that unifies the flow of information allows for providing a better response and information security, as well as prioritizing cases and optimizing resources. In addition, it becomes easier to establish which operations will be led by the police, according to jurisdictional competence, but supported by other forces. Operationally, the Center makes possible integrated, coordinated, and joint responses to events.

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

Costa Rica has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. The Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) is the institution that provides information for this system, which operates through reports on suspicious financial transactions and annual reports on drug seizures. The Consultation and Registration System (SICORE) is also used, which allows for an analysis of police intelligence.

OBJECTIVE
7

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

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

Costa Rica has strengthened its regulatory frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this sense, the country has the following instruments:

- Regulations of Law 9449 of April 23, 2018 (Executive Decree 41016)
- Regulations of Law 9416 of April 23, 2018 (Executive Decree 41040)
- Law Rendering Unauthorized Landing Strips Unusable (Law 9902) of 2020

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

Costa Rica has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this respect, police forces receive training through the Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organized Crime (PACCTO), the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), National Police of Colombia, and in the case of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Unit plays the role of updating and training officials on required subjects, generates typologies and cases of alerts that are continuously shared with the authorities.

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

Costa Rica has protocols that enable authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. The protocol for financial and asset investigation when investigating money laundering and the instructions of the General Prosecutor of the Republic on the lifting of bank secrecy and protection of information are carried out by the Money Laundering Section of the Judicial Investigation Body (OIJ) and the Asset Prosecution Unit of the Deputy Prosecutor's Office for Money Laundering.

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

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

Coordinating and addressing money laundering with territorial prosecutors' offices, specialized prosecutors' offices, and OIJ Offices, under the guidance of the Deputy Prosecutor's Office for Combatting Money Laundering and Criminal Prosecution

This is a working model enabling the Deputy Prosecutor's Office combatting money laundering to initiate new investigations, to hear and assist in existing investigations in each of the territorial and specialized Prosecutors' Offices, as well as to construct mapping of the criminal phenomenon at the national level.

Inter-agency task force to combat money laundering and drug trafficking

In May 2021, the Branches of the Government of the Republic signed a declaration to establish an inter-agency task force to generate proposals and actions to combat money laundering and drug trafficking. The roadmap was made official on June 17, 2021. It consists of evaluating the existing legal frameworks in order to propose improvements; establishing mechanisms for strengthening the competent institutions with technology and the human capital needed; managing the cooperation and assistance of international organizations and strategic partners; and enhancing the management instruments (National Strategy on Drugs and Associated Crimes; National Drug Plan; Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing; National Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment; and National Strategy on Integrity and Prevention of Corruption and Similar Conduct).

The road map also included other important actions on the financing of political parties:

- Define the path to ensure that information regarding political parties is more visible and easily located by citizens on the website of the Supreme Court of Elections.
- Create a complaint form on the website of the Supreme Court of Elections regarding the financing of political parties, which will be managed by the complaints and special studies area of the Political Parties Financing Department.
- Establish a High-Level Operating Committee that provides operational, political, and economic follow-up of all the previous actions, whose members will be appointed by each of the chairs of the Branches of Government.

Implementation of the Regulation for Risk Prevention

The General Superintendency of Securities (SUGEVAL), the Superintendency of Pensions (SUPEN), and the General Superintendency of Insurance of Costa Rica (SUGESE) make

arrangements with subject entities to enforce the implementation of Regulation 10-SGF-SUGEF-12-21, which considers aspects related to the results of updating the country's National Risk Assessment.

Supervision of the risk of money laundering, financing of terrorism, and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in exchange market institutions (exchange houses)

In October 2021, the General Superintendence of Financial Entities (SUGEF) approved procedure P-SU-226 relating to supervision of the risk money laundering, financing of terrorism, and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in exchange market institutions, exchange houses.

In addition, in External Circular of May 19, 2021, SGF-1343-2021, the SUGEF reiterates that preventing the risks of money laundering and financing of terrorism requires having strict, enhanced due diligence with regard to clients with recurring flows of income and/or outflows of cash in foreign currency.

Sectoral risk assessment of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBP)

In December 2022, an international consultant, a professional responsible for providing technical assistance to the SUGEF with regard to assessing the sector risk for DNFBPs, will present a diagnosis of risks in sectors of the economy such as casinos, third party resources management, trade in metals and precious stones, purchase/sale of properties, and non-profit organizations, including a description of the nature, size, complexity, value chain, operational chain, regulatory framework, and applicable types of money laundering.

The results of the diagnosis of risks in these sectors of the economy will make it possible to develop a suitable and effective plan of work to achieve effectiveness in supervision, monitoring, and follow-up processes.

Updating of the list of political exposed persons (PEPs)

The Financial Intelligence Unit periodically shares the PEPs List in compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 12. These lists are shared with the obligated subjects of Law 7786 and its reforms (National Financial System, public notaries, public accountants and are published in the website of the Financial Intelligence Unit) so that regulated entities can use this information in the processes of knowing the client and due diligence.

Inter-agency operations strengthening the country's preventive system

These exercises are coordinated by the Financial Intelligence Unit for the purpose of strengthening inter-agency work to combat the scourges of organized crime. They also make it possible to identify the vulnerabilities and risks in these areas of the country, which should be addressed in the process of updating the National Risk Assessment and consequently in the

National Strategy to Combat Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing, and other related crimes.

Cooperation of the Financial Intelligence Unit in investigations of the Public Prosecutor's Office

The last report issued and published by the FIU on its website described the technical assistance that the FIU has provided in judicial investigations of money laundering and related crimes from January to September 2021.

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

Costa Rica has the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Costa Rican Drug Institute, which was created by Law 8204, in Articles 123, 124, 125, and 126.

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

- FIU Direct confidential communication platform for use by subject financial entities to upload suspicious transaction reports: the platform can also be used to generate requests for collaboration from competent authorities such as the Public Prosecutor's Office.
- FIU Reports confidential communication platform for use by non-financial subject entities for uploading suspicious transaction reports.
- SICORE platform for uploading statements and violations on cross-border money statements: this platform provides traceability on financial flows used by "money mules" and for implementing intensified controls and information-sharing and generating cases that promote international cooperation.

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

Costa Rica has the following mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations:

System for alerts on suspicious movements in the financial system

Development of inter-agency instruments such as:

- National Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment;
- National Strategy to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing.

In 2021, the country presented the results of the National Risks Assessment and began the

process of developing the National Strategy to Combat Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing, and Financing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, which is the action plan for the route to be followed to achieve improvements in compliance with international standards.

The exercise developed under the National Risks Assessment, which is mandatory under the 40 FATF Recommendations, is essential for defining the risks scenario, understanding it, and taking it into account in the process of defining, planning, and executing public policies intended to combat those crimes.

The work process was carried out with the technical assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in 2020 and follows the international methodology that countries must adopt to comprehensively and strategically address the country's reality in view of the increased incidence of these crimes.

The inter-sectoral working panels have identified priorities related to strengthening effective cross-border control (customs/airport); technology and recourses in areas of investigation (Public Prosecutor's Office and the FIU); promoting greater effectiveness in institutional exchange of information; continuing improvement and urgent implementation of compliance and prevention measures in the private sector; advancing in the implementation of effective supervision models both in the financial sector and in private commercial activities exposed to abuse and risks posed by criminal organizations; mitigating informality; controlling proliferating activities such as cash in the streets and activities related to moneylenders; improving migration policies in view of terrorism financing risks and organized crime, and other policies.

National Strategy

Road Map Action Plan in Improving Compliance with International Standard

The Financial Intelligence Unit is coordinating an inter-agency, participatory, and dynamic process to establish the actions that the various institutions and the private sector should address and the route to be followed to more effectively combat money laundering, terrorism, and proliferation.

Efforts to combat these crimes must be addressed comprehensively by the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism system, which includes governmental institutions with responsibilities with respect to prevention, detection and intelligence, and investigation and criminal justice. They must operate as a coordinated mechanism enabling the efficient use of resources.

The proposed actions are the joint effort of the main institutions responsible for following a common route in the effective commitment to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation, generating innovative legal tools and strengthening joint work and inter-agency coordination, making it possible to continue advancing toward appropriate prevention, detection, and repression of these criminal phenomena.

The components of the working panels for the National Strategy under the national coordination of the FIU are: supervision, detection, and intelligence, DNFPB, the financial system, and criminal justice.

Objectives of the National Strategy:

- A. Intersectoral response: to focus resources, proposals, and actions on combating money laundering, terrorism financing, and related crimes.
- B. Guidance of efforts: Government institutions and required sectors, as well as authorities guaranteeing compliance with the law, in the development and implementation of public policies in this area.
- C. Development of a risk-based approach (RBA): Allows the country to work according to a risk-based approach to combat criminal manifestations and achieve effective compliance with international standards in both the public and private sectors.

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

Costa Rica has established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities. In this sense, the mechanisms used correspond to training, coordination, issuance of circulars and resolutions, as well as suspicious transaction reports. In addition, there is a legal framework on suspicious transactions.

The country has the following documents that were issued for implementation of partnerships with financial industries:

Guide on suspicious transaction reports

The Financial Intelligence Unit issues this guide with the purpose of reaffirming the concept, use and confidentiality of the instrument called "Suspicious Transaction Report" and improving the knowledge of the officials that make up the compliance teams who are in charge of preventing and controlling money laundering and terrorist financing within institutions.

Risk-Based Approach Guide for the Financial Industry

The Financial Intelligence Unit issues this guide containing the minimum aspects to be observed by subject entities as established in Article 14, 15, and 15 bis of Law 7786 and its amendments, for purposes of moving toward effective compliance with the international standard and mitigating the risks of money laundering and terrorism financing affecting the country.

Financial Intelligence Unit Resolution R-UIF-03-2020 on Suspicious Transaction Reports and confidentiality

This resolution develops the criteria on the use of sensitive and confidential information in suspicious transaction reports and information related to the information requests the Financial Intelligence Unit makes to its subject entities.

The Financial Intelligence Unit has the autonomy, authority, and capacity to establish conditions on the security and confidentiality of information in Suspicious Transaction Reports issued by third parties who report their suspicions in good faith and should thus be protected from reprisals limiting the subject entity's freedom, confidence, and security in reporting.

Administrative Resolution R-UIF-1-2020 on the procedure for immediate communication of suspicious alerts for the purpose of imposing an immediate freeze on financial flows

Instructs obligated subjects established in Articles 14, 15, 15 bis, and 15 ter of Law No. 8204 on the procedure for immediate communication of suspicious alerts. Subject entities must alert the Financial Intelligence Unit as soon as they detect – immediately and without delay – cash movements that are suspicious, for the purpose of preventing their withdrawal, as well as loss of their traceability.

The submission of the alert should be communicated by the Compliance Officer and in the case of subject entities under Article 15 and 15 bis of Law No. 8304 by the equivalent body duly approved by the competent oversight body.

OBJECTIVE
8

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

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

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

Costa Rica has designated the Asset Recovery Unit of the Costa Rican Drug Institute as the competent authority for the administration of seized and forfeited assets, under Law 8204, Articles 139 and 140.

The country has Law 8204, Articles 84, 84 bis, 85, 87, and the internal control standards contained in Law No. 8292, to facilitate accountability and transparency in the management of seized and forfeited assets.

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

Costa Rica offers and participates in the following specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposal of seized and forfeited assets:

	Name and type of training offered	Name and type of training received
National agencies Judicial Investigation Body (Money Laundering Section)	Experiences of the Asset Recovery Unit and coordination for forfeiture of assets of economic interest	
International organizations National Secretariat for the Administration of Seized and Forfeited Assets of Paraguay (SENABICO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of economic interest of assets • Planning of seizure and receipt of assets • Dissertation on experience in administration of seized assets • Asset conservation measures (inventories, classification, and storage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of seizure and receipt of assets • Dissertation on experience in administration of seized assets. Realtors, corporations, movable and immovable properties

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance sale procedures and forfeited assets • Asset loan procedure 	
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Priority Action 8.4: In accordance with each country’s constitutional principles, apply legislative and regulatory measures to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture and management of assets, instruments, or products of illicit drug-related activities.

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

- Law No. 8204, Law on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Unauthorized Use Drugs, Related Activities, Money Laundering, and Terrorism Financing
- Law No.7594, Code of Criminal Procedure
- Central American Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
- Treaty on Mutual Penal Assistance in Criminal Matters signed by the Central American countries
- Inter-American Convention on Execution of Preventive Measures
- Law No. 083 of 2001, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, signed on October 7, 1998 (Part IX, International Cooperation and Judicial Assistance)
- Law No. 7482 of 1995, Agreement between the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Colombia on Prevention, Control, Oversight, and Repression of the Improper Use and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors and Chemical Products
- Annex 39 Law No. 7542 of 1995, Agreement between the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Chile on Prevention, Control, Oversight, and Repression of Improper Use and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors and Specific Chemical Products
- Executive Decree No. 29.529 of 2001, Supplemental Agreement on Cooperation between the Republic of Costa Rica and the Kingdom of Spain on Preventing Use and Controlling Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances
- Law No.7919 of 1999, Central American and Dominican Republic Convention on Drugs and Money Laundering, Prevention and Repression of Money and Asset Laundering Crimes, with Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Crimes
- Law No. 7922 of 1999, Cooperation Agreement to Combat Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and Related Crimes, between the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Paraguay
- Law No. 7995 of 2000, Convention with Peru to Combat Improper Use, Production, and Illicit Trafficking of Drugs
- Executive Decree No. 19.567 of 1990, Agreement between Costa Rica and the United Mexican States on Cooperation to Combat Drug Trafficking and Drug Addiction

- Law No. 7469 of 1994, Treaty on Extradition and Criminal Legal Assistance with the United Mexican States
- Law No. 8216 of 2002, Approval of the Agreement between the Government of Costa Rica and the Government of Jamaica to Combat Drug Trafficking and Drug Addiction
- Law No. 7929 of 1999, Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Government of the United States of America for Cooperation to Suppress Drug Trafficking
- Executive Decree No. 30.484 of 2002, Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Government of the Republic of Panama on Exchanging Financial Information related to Money Laundering.

OBJECTIVE

9

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

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

Costa Rica has not designed, implemented, or updated national policies and programs to prevent or decrease illicit cultivation, production, or manufacture of drugs. The programs in Costa Rica’s national strategy are focused on crime prevention and human development.

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

Costa Rica does not direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs.

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

Costa Rica does not take into account licit traditional uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

The country does not include environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

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

Costa Rica has not established mechanisms for inter-institutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs.

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

Costa Rica does not support the development of supply reduction programs with crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors.

OBJECTIVE
10

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

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

Costa Rica has not designed and implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development programs as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops. This is because the country is not a large-scale producer, even though marijuana crops are located and destroyed in some of the country's highlands and plants are sometimes seized in controlled settings. However, the human development pillar of the national strategy maintains strategic interventions for communities vulnerable to drug use and trafficking.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

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

During the evaluation period (2019-2022), Costa Rica published the 2019-2022 Spatial Analysis of Seizures of Cannabis Spp in Costa Rica to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation and production of drugs.

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

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

Costa Rica has not designed or implemented specific research-based plans or studies to mitigate or reduce the negative environmental impacts caused by illicit crops and illicit drug production, with the participation of local communities.

OBJECTIVE**12****ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION, AND CITIZEN SECURITY.**

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

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

Costa Rica has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. In this sense, through the Drugs and Human Development pillar of the 2020-2024 National Plan on Drugs, Money Laundering, and Terrorism Financing, priority cantons detected as hot zones in terms of micro-trafficking are being approached and action plans are being developed to address the most vulnerable in terms of public spaces, economic activities, cultural activities, and other aspects that provide the populations with other development alternatives.

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

Costa Rica does not promote the exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic, or security sectors.

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

Costa Rica has the program “Sowing security to reap development” to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by illicit drug trafficking at the national and international level. This program is directed to youth and women in particular.

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

Objective 1

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica does not implement or participate in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, or dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations, and also observes that the country does not have protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Costa Rica implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has programs and strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, and checkpoints. Moreover, CICAD notes that Costa Rica has laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the country has updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Additionally, CICAD observes with satisfaction that Costa Rica implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in these crimes, and has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. CICAD also notes that the country has institutions that are responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. Moreover, CICAD recognizes that Costa Rica has mechanisms to facilitate and share information at the national level across relevant governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on these substances. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. CICAD ascertains that the country has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes and uses tools and resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. CICAD notes that Costa Rica has national authorities with the appropriate budget, human and material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets and that its competent personnel receive ongoing training in this area.

Objective 2

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

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

Objective 3

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

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Costa Rica has a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances and has developed such instruments and mechanisms. CICAD also observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances and that its competent authority carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. Moreover, CICAD notes that carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Additionally, CICAD observes that Costa Rica has legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities, which include all the control measures in paragraphs 8, all the control measures in paragraph 9, and requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country uses the INCB's PEN Online information system for pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances, as well as the PICS system. Additionally, CICAD observes that Costa Rica receives training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country has budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. CICAD also observes that Costa Rica uses the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Objective 4

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

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

Objective 5

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of these substances, and carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle them. CICAD observes that the country has criminal, civil, and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. However, CICAD notes that Costa Rica does not offer periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; however, the country shares the information with other regional and global systems on this matter. Additionally, CICAD recognizes that the country uses the INCB's I2ES system and has received training on its use.

Objective 6

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica implements and participates in the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country implements and participates in periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities

to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Moreover, CICAD notes that Costa Rica has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. CICAD also notes that the country has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. Moreover, CICAD observes that Costa Rica has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

Objective 7

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

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Costa Rica has strengthened legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Moreover, CICAD notes that Costa Rica has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. CICAD also observes that the country has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD recognizes that Costa Rica has a financial intelligence unit and information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. Additionally, CICAD notes that Costa Rica has established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Objective 8

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has a designated competent authority responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets and with regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country offers and participates in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. Moreover, CICAD recognizes

that Costa Rica has legislation, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

Objective 9

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has not designed, implemented, or updated national policies or programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, or manufacture of drugs. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country does not direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. Moreover, CICAD notes that Costa Rica does not take into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. CICAD observes that the country has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Costa Rica does not support the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors.

Objective 10

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 11

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica published, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), did a study to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production. However, CICAD notes that the country has not

designed or implemented specific plans based on the results of research or studies carried out to mitigate and reduce the negative environmental impact of the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, with the participation of local communities.

Objective 12

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

CICAD notes that Costa Rica has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. However, CICAD observes that the country does not promote the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic, or security sectors. However, CICAD notes that Costa Rica has a program to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
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