

Guyana has also developed an on-going relation with the CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

During the present Fifth Evaluation Round of the MEM, nine recommendations were assigned to Guyana. Three of those recommendations were fully implemented by the government, while two others are in the process of being implemented. Preparations have already started to allow for Guyana's participation in the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM through utilisation of the recently developed online forum of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) Virtual Platform.

Progress through bilateral cooperation continues with the signing of an agreement between the Ministry of ~~3KOLF6HFMLW~~ of Guyana and the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Narcotics Traffic Control on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors. Additionally Guyana has continued to promote its counter drug bilateral agreements with Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, Colombia and Suriname. The Guyana Venezuela drug Agreement was re-negotiated and revised to meet new challenges. It was initialled by both sides on 9th February 2011. An aide-memoir on supplementary issues was subsequently forward by Guyana for the consideration of Venezuela.

Other international cooperation initiatives maintained or implemented by Guyana that will impact counternarcotic efforts in the region are:

- a. Membership of the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC)
- b. Participation in the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBSI) including the Digital Fingerprint Network Agreement and other programmes.
- c. Implementation of cross border security measures between Guyana and Brazil to deal with the movement of people and goods between Lethem – Bon Fim and close environs.
- d. UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire completed and forwarded to UNODC.
- e. Hosting of a high level OAS CICAD team (05-11 March 2011) led by its Executive Secretary Ambassador James Mack. Team held discussions with all major counter narcotics stakeholders and presented a report for consideration by the relevant national authorities.

Notwithstanding multiple international cooperation measures implemented by the government there is a firm understanding that **Guyana's economy on its own cannot allow for the effective funding of the comprehensive drug fight required to counter the impact of, powerful transnational drug**

trafficking flows. Support from the international donor institutions is clearly necessary to aid Guyana in its counter drug fight. Realisation of such support has been slow over the reporting period.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

The government promotes fighting the illicit drug trade as an important national security objective and has continued to vigorously develop and implement national counter narcotics policies to avert the negative effect of the scourge on the nation and its citizens. While the formulation of a new NDSMP is well underway, implementation of those incomplete plans and programmes of the previous strategy are still on-going.



As part of the search for solutions to the problem of drug trafficking, the **Task Force on Narcotics Drugs and Illicit Weapons** was established in 2007. It emphasises the sharing of information and intelligence that can help in coordinating and advising on law enforcement operations related to the narcotics trade and trafficking in illicit weapons.

The Task Force operates under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Home Affairs and consists of representatives from five law enforcement agencies:

- a. The Guyana Police Force
- b. The Guyana Defence Force
- c. Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit
- d. Guyana Revenue Authority
- e. Financial Intelligence Unit

All constituent members are committed to the successfully accomplishment of the role of the Task Force by way of signature to a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out the modalities of operations of the Task Force.

Being all involved in law enforcement, there is a good appreciation among all entities of the magnitude of the challenges, as well as the nature and quality of responses that may be required in any given situation.

The Task Force conducts a statutory monthly meeting. Subcommittees meet as regularly as necessary in between statutory meetings. Additionally special meetings of the Task Force may be held as often as required. Two examples of such meetings are, the meeting with Guyana Shipping Association and the meeting with Aircraft Owners Association of Guyana.

Over the years the Task Force has generally fulfilled its mandate of interagency collaboration in quite an amicable and unified manner. Constituent members have by and large demonstrated respect for each other as they seem to recognise the value each agency brings to the table.

Some activities of note during 2011 include the following:

- a. Revision of the Agreement of Cooperation Between Guyana and Venezuela on the Prevention of Illegal Consumption and the Suppression of Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors, as well as Related Offences.
- b. Supported the setting up of a Drug Information Network as part of the National Crime Observatory
- c. Establishment of the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Guyana Revenue Authority.
- d. Activation of Shipping Scanners at the Guyana Revenue Authority.
- e. Putting in place the mechanism for the establishment of the Security Monitoring Committee at Ogle International Airport
- f. Cross border cooperation in counter drug activities that led to several successes in seizures and arrests in Guyana and Suriname.
- g. Meeting on hinterland roads, Trails and Riverain roots with several stakeholders to aid improving public security.
- h. Meeting with regional shippers, Seafreight Shipping Company to deal with Movement of Cargo, Customs Security, Seals verification, and the use of scanners.

Member agencies recognise the value of working across boundaries. Their representatives therefore act as catalysts in initiating partnerships and spreading the culture of collaboration nationally.

The Task Force Secretariat, member agencies and its partners are working together to enhance security as they are committed to being strong partners in protecting broader national security interests as well.

The combating of the drug trade in Guyana has seen a strong commitment by law enforcement agencies to pursue drug traffickers and dismantle their operations. For this reason, huge funding is regularly allocated to support law enforcement in the national counter drug effort.

The Guyana Police Force, the Customs Anti narcotic Unit and more recently the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) of the Guyana Revenue Authority are constantly in the forefront of the drug fight. The DEU was launched in March 2011. It is mandated to monitor and examine on a profile basis, all exports from Guyana with the aim of identification and interdiction of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and illegal goods concealed within cargo. The DEU operates and monitors activities mainly at transit sheds/wharves in the Georgetown harbour.

Other counter drug measures that were implemented by the government during 2011 include:

- a. Revised and initialled (by both sides) Draft – Guyana/ Venezuela Drug Agreement.
- b. Hosted Second Regional Workshop on Negotiations for the United Nations Arms Treaty.
- c. The first ever National Drug Report (2010) was approved printed and published.
- d. Completed and submitted United Nations Annual Questionnaire on Illicit Drugs to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- e. The Task Force on Narcotic Drugs and Illicit Weapons participated in meetings with other relevant Agencies at the Office of the President to discuss National Security challenges.
- f. Made recommendations to Cabinet for adjustments of Ports of Entry to Guyana.
- g. Hosted visit by a CICAD high level team led by the Executive Director and arranged discussions with all relevant Agencies.
- h. Hosted first meeting between Guyana and Suriname’s National Intelligence Agencies.
- i. Arranged and conducted Inter – agency meetings with Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana Gold Board and Guyana Geology and Mines Commission on communication routes in the border and hinterland.
- j. Made recommendations for improvement in Security in Forestry and Mining sectors.
- k. Conducted Airport Security Workshop. Discussed challenges and measures for cooperation among relevant Agencies.
- l. Developed MOU for the Security Monitoring Committee Ogle International Airport.

Police reports for the year 2011 reveal that, 272 kg 409.6 grams of Cocaine, 884,291 kg 870 grams of Cannabis, 89 grams of Hashish and 4 grams of ecstasy were seized in Guyana. From Cannabis seizure, 880,288 kg 750 grams resulted from eradication operations where ninety four (94) fields amounting to 154 ¼ acres of Cannabis plants were destroyed.

In total, there were 466 prosecutions for drug related activities, which led to 190 convictions. Cocaine seizures were valued at G\$244,800,000.00 whilst the Cannabis seizures were valued at G\$159,172,380,000.00

Of the two most significant cocaine seizures, one occurred on the June 9th, 2011, where 149 kg 638 grams were seized at Botavia, Cuyuni River. The other occurred on August 16th, 2011; 67 kg 296 grams were seized at Haslington, Enmore, East Coast Demerara, Guyana. There were occasional seizures of less significance at Georgetown Seaport, Moleson Creek and the Cheddi Jagan International Airport Corporation.



The Customs Anti Narcotic Unit reported that during the year 2011 it made seizures amounting to 126 kg 551.1grams of cocaine, while Cannabis seizures amounted to 679 kg 530.8grams. One hundred and five kgs resulted from eradication operations. This represents almost two billion dollars' worth of illicit drugs. CANU's largest seizure came from the interception of a vessel carrying drugs that was suspected to have come from Venezuela and destined for Suriname. Such transshipments are done by "Go Fast boats" traversing our territorial waters.

The table below shows a comparison of national summary of seizures for the years 2010 to 2011:

DRUG SEIZURES* COMPARISONS 2010 to 2011

SER.	YEAR 2010		YEAR 2011		
	Item	Kilograms	Grams	Kilograms	Grams
1.	Cocaine	134	683.7	411	138.6
2.	Cannabis	191,882	566.5	885,034	361.5
3.	Heroin	--	356	--	395
4.	Hashish	--	--	--	89
5.	Ecstasy	--	--	--	04

*Seizures of cannabis include the eradication of plants.

The increased appearance of heroin, hashish and ecstasy in Guyana is cause for concern.

A total of one hundred and two (102) illicit small arms and similar ammunition were seized by Law Enforcement Agencies during the period under review. This included:

- a. Shotguns.
- b. Six-shooter revolvers
- c. Pistols
- d. Rifles
- e. Improvised shotguns.
- f. Shotgun cartridges.
- g. Point .32 live rounds and spent cartridges.

Figures on Persons Charged for Drug Possession are shown below:

Type of Drug	Males			Females			Total
	≤18 yrs	19-25 yrs	>25 yrs	≤18 yrs	19-25 yrs	>25 yrs	
Cannabis (Marijuana)	0	63	137	0	3	9	212
Crack	2	4	13	0	0	1	20
Total	2	67	150	0	3	10	232

Persons Charged for Drug Possession by Type of Drug, Sex and Age Group, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011.
Source: Guyana Police Force Records.

Figures on persons Charged for Drug Trafficking are shown below:

Type of Drug	Males			Females			Total
	≤18 yrs	19-25 yrs	>25 yrs	≤18 yrs	19-25 yrs	>25 yrs	
Cannabis (Marijuana)	1	74	147	1	6	25	254
Crack	1	24	46	0	13	1	85
Cocaine (HCL)	1	7	14	0	1	3	26
Heroin	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ecstasy	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	3	106	209	1	20	31	370

Persons Charged for Drug Trafficking by Type of Drug, Sex and Age Group, Jan. 1 to Dec 31, 2011.
Source: Guyana Police Force Records.

The number of cases successfully prosecuted for the years 2006 to 2011 are shown in the table below:

Year	Prosecutions 2006-2011						Total
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
No. of successful Cases Prosecuted	269	210	140	169	264	256	1308

Source: Task Force Secretariat.

DEMAND REDUCTION

National policy on Demand Reduction is coordinated and promoted by the Ministry of Health with the support of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Youth and Sports among several other government and non-government agencies. Resulting policy programmes and measures are implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Security responsible for oversight, coordinating and implementing of all national counter drug strategies and plans.

The area of action for demand reduction ranges from health promotion to strategies for prevention of use and associated problems. This encompasses risk, harm reduction, and social care. Thus, the Ministry of Health combines these components, each of which requires a specific approach; in spite of the fact that certain contents are common and overlapping.

The Ministry of Health sponsored the establishment of drug abuse prevention and treatment programmes which were both community-based and residential, and which provided for the rehabilitation, after care and social reintegration of drug addicts as well as prevention programmes targeted at those groups at-risk of drug abuse.

These mechanisms were mainstreamed into education and health and programmes using “*Edutainment*” at the Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary levels. Radio programmes such as “Tales from the Crack” and “Health and Family Life Education” were broadcasted. It was reported that over 10,000 students received anti-drug use and abuse messages through this intervention. The Ministry of Health also piloted Workplace & Community Health and Wellness Programme targeting adults.

Routine outpatient rehabilitation treatment was provided at the following public health agencies:

- a. Georgetown Public Hospital
- b. New Amsterdam Hospital
- c. Mibicuri Cottage Hospital
- d. Skeldon Hospital
- e. Smythfield Drop in Centre.

A total of 48 clients were treated at the Georgetown Public Hospital outpatient centre, 233 at the New Amsterdam Hospital centre and 21 at the Skeldon Hospital centre over the reporting period. The Guyana Prison Service has arranged treatment country wide for 1,277 prisoners.

Guyana has been involved in the revision and adoption of the CARICOM Universal Standard of Care Handbook for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Dependence during the reporting period.

The Handbook contains standards and guidelines for drug treatment practitioners in several critical areas including training and regulations: credentialing and certification, standards for detoxification programmes, outpatient drug free counselling, medication aided drug treatment and standards specific to prison based treatment programmes.

Additionally, Government continues to provide \$5 million annually to the Salvation Army and approximately \$3 million through the Ministry of Health to the Phoenix Recovery Centre for the purpose of implementing effective preventative and treatment-based mechanisms to cope with growing domestic drug consumption.

Over the reporting period, Phoenix Recovery Centre treated 146 cases (92males and 54 females) for substance abuse addiction. The below table shows further details:

Type of Drug	<i>No. of cases attending specialised treatment facilities for problems derived from the consumption of alcohol and other drugs during the year</i>						Total
	Male			Female			
	≤18 yrs	19-25 yrs	>25 yrs	≤18 yrs	19-25 yrs	>25 yrs	
Alcohol	0	3	23	1	1	12	40
Tobacco	0	3	22	1	1	12	39
Marijuana (Cannabis)	1	3	18	1	1	11	35
Crack	0	1	16	0	1	11	29
Inhalants	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Amphetamines	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Total # of Cases Treated	1	11	80	3	4	47	146

Number of Persons Treated for Alcohol and drug related problems, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011. Source: Annual Report Drug Information Network, 2011.

The Salvation Army treated a further 36 cases for alcohol and drug related addiction. The Guyana Prison Service conducted programmes for inmates on the social re-integration of drug users.

The OAS / CICAD through its MEM Report on Guyana's Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round stated the following:

“CICAD recognises that in the area of Demand Reduction, the country has developed programmes for students to address issues of substance abuse and has made progress concluding the Global Youth Tobacco Survey and the first phase of the Drug Phenomenon in Latin America.”

Regardless of the new developing trends of the global drug problem, indications are that Government will remain firm in its commitment to institute more effective policies to enable agencies and departments under the purview of the security and health sectors to achieve their mandates in accordance with international and domestic laws.



CONCLUSION

Illicit Trafficking and Drug Abuse are global occurrences that generally affect the individual, the family and all segments society. Guyana is located at a pivotal point on the major transshipment routes from the producing countries in South America to the largest international markets of North America and Europe. Consequently, Guyana has not been spared the distressing costs of this scourge.

Over the past years the country has witnessed higher treatment levels of illicit drug users of mainly marijuana and cocaine. Conversely there were corresponding increases in law enforcement counter drug operations and activities by other national stakeholder agencies to promote public security and public health affected by the societal ills associated with illicit trafficking.

In response to this on-going threat, and in keeping with its national development vision, the Government of Guyana has implemented a series of additional measures to combat the matching problems of demand and supply. With the technical support of the Ministry of Public Security in collaboration with other responsible national stakeholders, a New National Drug Strategy Master Plan is presently being drafted. This strategy will set out Government's supreme policy to address the world drug problem in Guyana. It is intended to summarise national policies, define priorities and allocate responsibilities for the national drug control effort. Ultimately, it will attempt to create balance between programmes that bring about improvements in public security and those that do so in public health.

The national security community and other stakeholders in the drug fight need to tirelessly continue to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our current efforts and study novel approaches for wider implementation in their counter drug efforts.

Guyana is committed to regional and international collaboration in areas such as information sharing, training, and reporting of best practices in law enforcement, abuse prevention, education and the principle of mutual support among all states in the fight against the world drug problem.