



## CONTEXT

The trafficking of illicit goods -including drugs- is an international phenomenon with a **devastating impact on social and economic development** as well as on public health. **The transatlantic axis**, which stretches from Latin America via the Caribbean and West Africa to Europe, is a major route for these illicit flows. Orchestrated by **transnational criminal groups** operating across several continents and often involved in other criminal activities (e.g.: kidnapping, money laundering, etc), illicit goods trafficking is a source of instability and a threat to governance.

With 90% of global trade transported by sea, the bulk of illicit goods is mostly found concealed among legitimate cargo (in containers or on vessels), and on fishing boats and yachts. Inadequate port controls and general institutional weakness facilitate criminal activity and enable the intersection of illicit flows connecting ports in South America to those in Africa and Europe, promoting criminal networking. This **flexibility in transatlantic maritime trafficking** is a fundamental reason why it is necessary to target trans-regional trafficking routes between Latin America, the Caribbean, West Africa and Europe in a consistent, coherent and sustainable manner.

In response, as part of the **EU's Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP)**, SEACOP VI works with relevant authorities in these regions, in close cooperation with EU agencies fighting transnational crime and ensuring border security. The operational project emphasises the importance of gender equality, sustainability and self buy-in across all of its actions.

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

SEACOP VI aims to contribute to the **fight against illicit maritime trafficking and associated criminal networks** in the targeted countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, **consistent with human rights**, in order to alleviate its negative impact on security, public health, the environment and socio-economic development.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Reinforce the capacities for analysis and identification of suspicious vessels and intelligence sharing related to maritime/riverine illicit trafficking, including those subject to environmental criminality.
- ▶ Strengthen capacities for maritime search and interdiction of illicit commodities, including those subject to environmental criminality.
- ▶ Sustainably improve cooperation and information sharing at the regional and transregional level, including the promotion of law enforcement operations.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Strengthened capacities of Joint Maritime Control Units (JMCUs) and Maritime Intelligence Units (MIUs) of the SEACOP network on the analysis, identification and interdiction of suspicious vessels.
- Enhanced information and intelligence sharing related to maritime/riverine illicit trafficking.
- Provision of equipment for search and rummage teams, based on a needs assessment as well as access to relevant IT systems, databases and intelligence exchange platforms.
- Strengthened regional and trans-regional cooperation amongst the SEACOP network and with relevant EU agencies and projects, such as EMPACT and MAOC (N).

# SEACOP VI

SEAPORT COOPERATION  
PROJECT - Phase VI

## THEMATIC AREAS

Global Threats and Organised Crime

Maritime Security

## COUNTRIES COVERED:

**WEST AFRICA:** Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Togo, The Gambia

**THE CARIBBEAN:** Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent, Trinidad & Tobago  
To be confirmed: Suriname

**LATIN AMERICA:** Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.

To Be Confirmed: Costa Rica

## DURATION:

36 months

(November 2023 - October 2026)

## BUDGET:

6 million Euros, funded by the European Union Service for Foreign Policy Instruments

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- Expertise France (France)
- Fundacion Internacional y para Iberoamerica de Administracion y Políticas Publicas - FIIAPP (Spain)

In collaboration with:

- Maritime Analysis and Operation Centre - Narcotics - MAOC-(N)
- Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects -DGDDI (France)
- National Crime Agency - NCA (UK)
- Polícia Judiciaria (Portugal)
- Directorate of Security and Defense Cooperation - DCSD (France)
- European Border and Coast Guard Agency - FRONTEX

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# SEACOP V: Key achievements

## THE CARIBBEAN

- 13** Joint Maritime Control Units and **13** Maritime Intelligence Units supported
- 13** Memoranda of Understanding signed and **22** National Steering Committees held
- 21** training courses (JMCU and MIU) delivered
- 319** officers trained across the region including **12** who will become trainers themselves
- 4** regional activities organised
- 37** law enforcement agencies benefiting from SEACOP
- 90** seizures supported by teams trained by SEACOP, including cocaine, cannabis, arms and ammunitions.



## WEST AFRICA

- 9** Joint Maritime Control Units and **8** Maritime Intelligence Units created
- 2** MoU signed and **2** National Steering Committees held
- 20** training delivered (16 for JMCUs and 4 for MIUs) to **271** officers
- 2** regional workshops organised
- 12** seizures supported by teams trained by SEACOP, including cocaine, cannabis resin and ammunitions.

## LATIN AMERICA

- 8** Joint Maritime Control Units and **8** MIUs supported
- 6** MoU signed and **4** Steering Committees held
- 20** training delivered to a total of **321** officers
- 14** regional and trans-regional workshops, operational meeting and seminars delivered to 258 people overall
- 14** seizures supported by teams trained by SEACOP, including cocaine.

## INTER-REGIONAL

**3** transregional initiatives created: Operation Caribe 2023, Training of Trainers, TRIG+

Participation in number of **regional and global initiatives** i.e. Orion and Tayrona campaigns, Tradewinds exercise, UNITY, EU Crime Week, etc

**Innovative training of trainers** course developed and implemented across all three regions.

Joint activities organised with **EU-funded** and **GIFP** projects including AIRCOP, CCP, CRIMJUST, MCBS,

## TYPES OF ILLICIT TRADE



**Drugs:** cocaine, cannabis



**Natural Resources:** timber, gold, ivory



**Counterfeit pharmaceuticals**



**Weapons and Cash**

## PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

- Sustainability** of action
- Comprehensive** scope (incl. environmental crime)
- Flexibility** and **operationalisation**
- Country and region-**tailored**
- Trans-regional cooperation** and local ownership
- Cross-sectorial and **inter-agency** approach

