A REGIONAL SOLUTION TO A NATIONAL CHALLENGE
The Paris Pact Initiative is an international partnership to counter trafficking and consumption of Afghan opiates. Between 2003 and 2008, 15 meetings of counter narcotics experts were held in the region, where participants analysed drug trends, identified counter narcotics strengths and weaknesses and developed action plans for specific countries, regions or areas of intervention. In addition, every year, senior policy makers meet in Vienna to review and support the implementation of expert recommendations, as well as to set priorities for the following year.

Benefits

- Information exchange on opiate trafficking and abuse trends
- Enhancement of evidence-based policies and strategies
- Promotion of good practices in counter narcotics enforcement and opiates demand reduction
- Identification of weaknesses and priority actions at the geographic and thematic levels
- Development and implementation of national and regional programmes and projects
- Coordination of counter narcotics technical assistance

1. Balkan Route – Brussels, September 2003
2. Islamic Republic of Iran – Brussels, October 2003
3. Central Asian countries – Tashkent, April 2004
4. Russian Federation – Moscow, June 2004
5. Pakistan – Islamabad, March 2005
6. Islamic Republic of Iran – Tehran, September 2005
7. South Eastern Europe – Istanbul, October 2005
8. Afghanistan & neighbouring countries – Dushanbe, April 2006

Expert Round Tables 2008
15. Financial flows linked to Afghan opiates production and trafficking – Vienna, November 2008

Rainbow Strategy Papers
- The Red Paper
- The Orange Paper
- The Yellow Paper
- The Green Paper
- The Blue Paper
- The Indigo Paper
- The Violet Paper
The Rainbow Strategy acknowledges that a national problem demands a regional solution, and therefore engages both Afghanistan and surrounding countries.

With the “Kabul Declaration on Good Neighbourly Relations” and the “Doha Declaration on Border Management in Afghanistan” in mind, it translates Paris Pact recommendations in operational outlines.

Made up of seven action outlines, the strategy addresses key issues, allowing for constructive engagement with prime actors in the region, facilitating local ownership, and supplementing interventions from national governments and other Paris Pact partners. The approach is pragmatic and realistic, accepting that a long-term engagement is required in order to build confidence and trust.
National Drug Control Strategy of the Government of Afghanistan:

"... the elimination of opium poppy cultivation must be effectively sequenced with the broader stabilization effort and eradication targeted where rural livelihoods exist...no sustainable reduction in cultivation, either through self-restraint or eradication, will be possible until farmers have access to sufficient legal livelihoods ..."

"... strong, effective and accountable institutions and law enforcement agencies are established at the central and provincial level, our ability to deliver on the key priorities highlighted above and on the overall counter narcotics campaign will be limited ..."

"... tackling the illicit drug problem in Afghanistan will be a resource-dependent task. Securing resources for the NDCS and related policies will be key ... to improve counter narcotics resource allocation at central, provincial and district levels, in mid 2004 the Government decided to establish a Counter Narcotics Trust Fund."

Policy-level commitments and resolutions:

"... the essential elements ... to achieve a sustained and significant reduction in the production and trafficking of narcotics with a view to complete elimination ... include improved interdiction, law enforcement and judicial capacity building; enhanced cooperation among Afghanistan, neighbouring countries and the international community on disrupting the drugs trade; wider provision of economic alternatives for farmers and labourers in the context of comprehensive rural development; and building national and provincial counter-narcotics institutions ..."  
(Afghanistan Compact, February 2006)

" The UN Security Council ... expresses its continued support to the commitment and efforts of Afghanistan to achieve a sustained and significant reduction in the production and trafficking of narcotics with a view to complete elimination ...”  
(UN Security Council Resolution 1817, June 2008)
Afghan provinces are slowly regaining their control on the drug situation. In 2006, only 6 out of 34 provinces were opium-free. In 2007 and 2008 the number of opium-free provinces increased to 13 and 18, respectively. Today only 5 provinces in the south account for over 90% of Afghan’s opium cultivation. As the Afghan provinces reduced their production drastically and quickly, relapses or increase in cannabis cultivation might occur. Targeted support towards the farmers, their families and communities is required to consolidate the gains made in the opium-free provinces and to roll these reductions out to other locations.

The blue paper supports the Afghan national strategy and Good Performance Initiative which aim to increase the number of opium-free provinces and to consolidate the progress made over recent years. This demands an holistic approach encompassing counter narcotic interventions at the provincial and district levels, agricultural and economic development within communities, and reinstituting the rule of law while improving governance and eradicating corruption. The blue paper provides indicators for all 34 provinces and proposes priority areas, thereby helping strategic planning, local ownership within the provinces, and coordination among the principal actors.
Paris Pact expert recommendations:

“The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan ... should implement new projects aimed at fostering drug control cross-border cooperation and intelligence exchange.”
(Expert Round Table, Tehran 2005)

“The Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran should strengthen existing coordination mechanisms, and establish new coordination mechanisms/measures, in order to step up counter narcotics operations in border areas. The implementation of the above-mentioned coordination mechanisms and measures should lead to joint drug control and border control operations in the medium-long term ...”
(Expert Round Table, Islamabad 2005)

“Information/intelligence exchange amongst Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan is limited ... and its effectiveness needs to be improved.”
(Expert Round Table, Dushanbe 2006)

Policy-level commitments and resolutions:

“Afghanistan’s border regions between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan are under attack from criminal groups that are smuggling precursor chemicals into Afghanistan and trafficking drugs out of the country ... senior representatives of the three countries agreed on the need for action, particularly in the most vulnerable border regions ...”
(Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, Joint Statement, Vienna 2007)

“Calls upon all Member States and UNODC to provide the technical assistance and support needed for strengthening the initiatives and efforts of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan to fight drug trafficking.”
(ECOSOC Resolution 2008/27)
Decades of instability alongside the southern borders of Afghanistan resulted in a lack of confidence and trust among the neighbouring countries. The informal economy and narco-business thrive in these areas plagued by insecurity. A strong correlation between opium cultivation, heavily concentrated in the south, and the insurgency can be witnessed. However, cross-border activity is not one-dimensional and fortunes can be made from the thriving contraband, an element which further complicates border management amongst the neighbours.

The green paper aims to enhance cross-border cooperation in the field of counter narcotics enforcement amongst Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Launched by policy-makers from the three countries in Vienna in June 2007, this action plan sets in motion a series of trust building measures and joint operations, with the ultimate goal of information/intelligence sharing. The role of UNODC is to serve as the Secretariat of the Triangular Initiative, facilitate the implementation of technical assistance and mobilize financial support. In a joint statement the three countries stressed the wish to focus not only on trafficking, but on all aspects of the drug economy: stopping the diversion and smuggling of precursor chemicals; locating and destroying drug labs; tackling corruption which facilitates the drug business; and halting the laundering of drug money. Among the measures agreed are joint training and compatibility of telecommunications equipment, intelligence cooperation through the Joint Planning Cell to be established in Tehran, joint operations, pilot liaison offices on each of the borders, and a working group discussing control measures within trade facilitation agreements between the countries.
Paris Pact expert recommendations:

“Need to establish mobile interdiction units in order to control open borders ensuring operational flexibility…”
(Expert Round Table, Tashkent 2004)

“Need for better information and intelligence exchange through the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC)…”
(Expert Round Table, Dushanbe 2006)

“The opening and functioning of Border Liaison Offices, as proved in South East Asian countries, should be considered a first pragmatic modality towards cross-border cooperation in Central Asia before aiming to conduct joint patrolling or establish joint border posts.”
(Expert Round Table, Dushanbe 2006)

Policy-level commitments and resolutions:

“Informational and operational interaction among law enforcement agencies … should be improved … CARICC - a centre for combating drug trafficking and related crimes with its headquarters in Almaty, Kazakhstan - is to become an important element in setting up internationally accepted standard in the region for the exchange of strategic and tactical information between the participants in the Central Asian Memorandum of Understanding…”
(Moscow Ministerial Declaration 2006)

“The establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLO) was considered to be practical and viable in building trust and dialogue between border control agencies on shared borders, leading to their empowerment to act and respond quickly and in concert to requests for mutual assistance or information exchange without having to refer all decisions back to Headquarters.”
(Observations and Recommendations, Moscow Ministerial Meeting 2006)
Because the world’s opiate production is concentrated in Afghanistan, the Central Asian States as the “Northern Route” form a crucial frontline against opiate trafficking. Their long, difficult to secure borders with Afghanistan total 2387 km. As a region of countries with secular governments and straddling key land routes between East Asia and Europe, Central Asia presents itself as a key strategic region from a security point of view. The total volume of opiates smuggled through the “Northern Route” soared by no less than 70 per cent from 720mt in 2003 to 1,230mt in 2007. Currently, the risk of detection for smugglers along the so-called “Northern Route” is not high; seizing only a small fraction of the estimated amounts trafficked.

The yellow paper presents a strategy to bolster narcotic interdiction efforts along Central Asia’s borders with Afghanistan. In particular, it looks at developing and coordinating intelligence using both conventional and non-conventional means, strengthening overall interdiction capacities through the development of cross-border liaison mechanisms between Central Asia and Afghanistan, and developing operating standards for the long stretches of unguarded or “green borders” in this sensitive region. This is to be done through a set of three operational measures: mobile interdiction teams (MOBITs), border liaison offices (BLOs), and information and intelligence exchange. MOBITs run drug and precursor operations in the border area guided by information and intelligence. Analytical capabilities of border control agencies, both national centres and decentralised field offices, are strengthened through the Central Asian Regional Information Coordination Centre (CARICCC). Finally, Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) in identified high-risk areas, on key Afghan and Central Asian border crossings, lead cross-border communication, operational cooperation and coordination.
Paris Pact recommendations:

“Border issues should be looked at in a comprehensive way, including at sea ports, airports and land border crossings ... and promoted from a sub-regional perspective.”
(Expert Round Table, Turkmenbashi 2007)

“Need for a prioritised integrated approach to combat narcotics in the region ... and for coordination at regional, sub-regional and national levels.”
(Expert Round Table, Turkmenbashi 2007)

“Call for the launch of the Caspian Sea Initiative, in order to enhance data-analytical capacities in the region, strengthen container control and share strategic and operational intelligence ...”
(Expert Round Table, Turkmenbashi 2007)

Policy-level commitments and resolutions:

“Informational and operational interaction amongst law enforcement agencies and special services of the States concerned should be improved, with a view to tracing trans-national criminal groups engaged in drug and precursor smuggling in Afghanistan and beyond.”
(Moscow Ministerial Declaration 2006)

“The UN Security Council calls upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the illicit production and trafficking of drugs originated in Afghanistan, including through border management cooperation in drug control and cooperation for the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors ....”
(UN Security Council Resolution 1806, March 2008)
Turkmenistan, as one of the three Central Asian countries bordering Afghanistan, is affected by Afghanistan’s record opium crops. Recent seizures and violent drug-related incidents demonstrated the vulnerability of the country for the drug gangs operating in the country, transporting Afghan drugs to/from the Islamic Republic of Iran and towards the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea Initiative and the Turkmen Border Initiative, created in October 2007, incorporate Turkmenistan - for long a ‘missing link’ related to border cooperation - into the “Rainbow Strategy”.

The Caspian Sea Initiative (CSI) is a joint endeavour of UNODC, the European Commission (EC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). It aims at engaging the countries sharing borders with the Caspian Sea in regional and international efforts to combat illicit trade and trafficking. Specific emphasis is placed on strengthening analytical capacity, intelligence sharing, and cross-border cooperation, largely in the framework of container profiling at the dry- and seaports. The CSI is complemented by the Turkmen Border Initiative (TBI). The TBI is three-phased: establishing a Drug Control State Commission; building capacity along the Turkmen borders; and information/intelligence sharing through cross border cooperation with the Afghan and Iranian neighbours.
Paris Pact recommendations:

“... need for better precursor control action, and a clear focus of ongoing support on more operational measures and results.”
(Expert Round Table, Tashkent 2004)

“... need to conduct a time-bound operation aimed at identifying and intercepting acetic anhydride consignments in the region.”
(Expert Round Table, Tehran 2005)

Policy-level commitments and resolutions:

“More attention should be paid to the issue of the diversion of chemical precursors used to produce heroin.”
(Moscow Ministerial Declaration 2006)

“The Security Council invites the international community to provide financial and technical assistance and support, in building national capacity for ... specialized enforcement operations against the diversion of precursors, including for their detection and disposal in Afghanistan and the region.”
(UN Security Council Resolution 1817, June 2008)

“The Security Council ... expressing utmost concern at the increase of illegal smuggling, for illicit use, to and within Afghanistan of chemical precursors needed to produce heroin ... Stressing the central role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in assisting Member States, ... Welcomes the launch, under the guidance of UNODC and the Project Cohesion Task Force, of the Targeted Anti-Trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARGET) initiative, targeting precursors used in the manufacture of heroin in Afghanistan ....”
(UN Security Council Resolution 1817, June 2008)
THE RED PAPER
Targeting Precursors Used in Heroin Manufacture:
Operation TARCET

As recognized in Security Council Resolution 1817, preventing the smuggling of precursor chemicals into Afghanistan is essential to counter the illicit manufacture of heroin in the country. While clear political support is evident, existing precursor control projects have witnessed first-hand the difficulties countries experience in launching activities to support these ideals, due to both financial and technical reasons. According to UNODC estimates, 60% of the opium produced in Afghanistan in 2007 was converted into heroin within the country. This conversion process required the availability of more than 1,300 tons of acetic anhydride – a key chemical precursor for the manufacturing of heroin - as well as more 12,000 tons of other chemicals. No major seizure of acetic anhydride, or no other use in Afghanistan other than opium conversion to heroin, had been made in the region from 2001 to 2006.

The action plan targets the smuggling of precursors used in heroin manufacture en route to Afghanistan through the implementation of Operation TARCET. This Operation was launched in November 2007 with a twofold objective: (a) educate key law enforcement officers on methods used to identify and intercept smuggled consignments of chemicals; and (b) intercept consignments of smuggled chemicals using modern methodologies. During the first few months of this operation in 2008, 19 tons of acetic anhydride and over 20 tons of other chemicals were seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In addition, thanks to Operation TARCET, seizures of chemicals are being documented and mapped for the first time in Afghanistan. The red paper complements and seeks synergy with existing precursor control projects in the region and promotes a regional response based on a systematic analysis of both criminal and forensic intelligence.
**Paris Pact recommendations:**

“The Government of Pakistan and the donor community should undertake research(es) on drug-related financial flows and assets recovery in Pakistan, in order to clearly understand the volume of such flows and their importance for the national economy, as well as to explore possible linkages between countries and their respective trafficking groups profiting from the illegal trade.”

(Expert Round Table, Islamabad 2005)

“Paris Pact partners and the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council should fully implement all relevant UN Conventions and other international standards against money laundering; support the work of the MENAFATF; and pay special attention to the need for effective law enforcement and regulatory capacity to deal with alternative remittance dealers and cross-border cash smuggling.”

(Expert Round Table, Doha 2006)

“Need to strengthen control over trans-national movement of monetary funds received from illicit drug trafficking from Afghanistan, and to develop measures aiming at countering their laundering with the purpose of further usage for bribing corrupt officials and financing terrorist activity.”

(Expert Round Table, Kabul 2007)

**Policy-level commitments and resolutions:**

“The fight against the laundering of money from criminal activities or corruption should be strengthened, enabling any sources of terrorism financing to be uncovered.”

(Paris Ministerial Declaration 2003)

“The fight against the laundering of money from criminal activities, including precursors and drugs trafficking and corruption should be strengthened.”

(Moscow Ministerial Declaration 2006)

“Encourages States to submit to the Committee for inclusion on the Consolidated List names of individuals and entities participating in the financing or support of acts or activities of Al-Qaida, ... including but not limited to using proceeds derived from illicit cultivation, production, and trafficking of narcotic drugs originating in Afghanistan, and their precursors.”

(UN Security Council resolution 1735, December 2006)
UNODC estimates that the total export value of opiates produced in and trafficked from Afghanistan in 2007 amounted to $4 billion. Approximately one quarter of this amount is earned by opium farmers. The remainder goes to criminal groups and warlords who control the business of producing and distributing the drugs. Terrorism groups benefit financially from this contraband and corruption is fuelled by it. Much of the profits are reinvested abroad. Stringent financial controls and high banking commission rates might discourage Afghans from using the formal financial sector to transfer money and make them heavily reliant on the informal sector, such as the Hawala system. The Hawala system is an informal financial mechanism used to transfer money in and out of Afghanistan. While essential to the Afghan economy, it can be easily misused for criminal purposes and hence serve as a vehicle for drug money-laundering. A similar situation also occurs in the neighbouring countries, which are also enforcing comprehensive anti-money-laundering regulations for their financial institutions.

The action plan analyses the financial flows to and from Afghanistan linked to drug production and trafficking. It also presents a series of priority actions to increase the knowledge about these financial flows and to address the challenges and vulnerabilities to money-laundering at the national, regional and international level. This strategic outline has been produced by an inter-agency working group made up of representatives from the Egmont Group, the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Interpol, UNODC and the World Bank (WB). The World Bank has already carried out several studies on the Hawala system in Central Asia and its potential misuse for drug production and trafficking purposes.
Paris Pact recommendations:

“Experts fear that once the oversupply of Afghan opiates is released into the local and regional markets, a ‘tsunami’ of addiction and related HIV/AIDS epidemic will occur, dramatically affecting national security and economic development in and around Afghanistan.”
(Expert Round Table, Kabul 2007)

“Demand reduction strategies should provide a continuum of interventions that should cover primary prevention ... treatment and rehabilitation to bring people into recovery, and reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug use. All these interventions should be informed by accurate information of the drug abuse situation, be based on scientific evidence ... be continuously monitored and evaluated.”
(Expert Round Table, Turkmensbashi 2007)

Policy-level commitments and resolutions:

“Demand reduction policies should be put in place, generally comprising medical care, risk reduction measures and possibly substitution treatment ...”
(Paris Ministerial Declaration 2003)

“... The illicit trafficking in opiates has resulted in increased drug abuse in transit countries of Central, South and West Asia ... the health aspects of drug use, and heroin use in particular, should be a priority in policies implemented by States ... in particular prevention and treatment of drug addiction and diseases transmitted through intravenous drug injection, such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis ...”
(Moscow Ministerial Declaration 2006)
Afghanistan produces more opium than what is estimated to be consumed worldwide. Hundreds of tons are being stockpiled by traders and farmers in the country. A sudden surge of cheap opium and heroin, if and when the stocks are released on the local markets, would have devastating consequences. This does not bode well for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries who already show high prevalence rates of heroin and opium abuse and are ill-prepared to cope with the current levels of addiction and HIV infection.

The action plan aims to improve responses to opioid abuse and HIV in Afghanistan and countries of South, West and Central Asia. It provides an analysis of the drug abuse and related HIV/AIDS challenges at the regional and national levels. This paper identifies keys principles and effective approaches for successful drug abuse prevention; drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation; HIV prevention, treatment and care. It further outlines national and regional activities for the period of 2008-2011.
1. Roll out to Provinces in Afghanistan

In the context of the Blue Paper (Afghanistan’s Opium Poppy Free Roadmap and Provincial Profiles) UNODC is supporting the government to roll out the National Drug Control Strategy towards the provinces and to sustain the development of the Government’s counter-narcotics capacity at the provincial level. Institutional and operational capability of the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics is being strengthened resulting in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of drug control related issues, particularly alternative livelihoods assistance. Among others, UNODC has supported strategy development based on evidence, advocated for support to provincial counter-narcotics implementation plans, designed an alternative livelihoods database to be used as a coordinating tool, and supported pre-planting campaigns.

2. Information/Intelligence cooperation from the Gulf to Russia

Next to the establishment of a Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARIICC) under the Yellow Paper (Securing Central Asian Borders) of the Rainbow Strategy, UNODC also supports the Gulf Centre for Criminal Intelligence (GCCI). Serving as a hub for representatives of the law enforcement agencies of each member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – the GCCI is to coordinate communication, analysis and exchange of operational information in “real time” on cross-border crime, including drug trafficking. In addition to the above, in May 2008 Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan agreed, as part of the Triangular Initiative (the Green Paper) to establish a Joint Planning Cell, to be based in Tehran, which will facilitate information exchange and joint counter-narcotics interventions. Through these three initiatives, combined with existing networks, geographical areas become inter-connected and cross-border operations are better targeted.

3. Global Container Programme

When discussing border control, the fear is that this may negatively affect legal trade flows across borders. The concept of Integrated Border Management (IBM) has been devised to avoid such. Within IBM, the UNODC Global Container Control Programme assists governments to prevent drug trafficking and other illicit activity whilst facilitating legal trade. Joint Port Control Units integrate officers from different law enforcement bodies thereby forming alliances between Customs, trade and enforcement communities as a joint means to prevent the abuse of legitimate commercial trade for the purposes of organized crime. The Joint Port Control Units exchange information and intelligence, and use risk assessment and targeting techniques to identify high-risk consignments. The model is currently being applied both within the Triangular Initiative (Green Paper) and the Caspian Sea Initiative (Violet Paper) of the Rainbow Strategy.

4. Mapping of profiles and routes of precursor chemicals and opiates to/from Afghanistan.

Recognizing the need to integrate operational information/intelligence arising from, first, law enforcement operations, second, forensic investigations and analysis, and, third, research analysis, several projects have been initiated over time. For example, the European Commission (EC) has been supportive to UNODC projects mapping heroin in Afghanistan and is about to launch a forensic project in the ECO member countries. An umbrella program is now underway, linking the different projects and outcomes in one, thereby filling eventual gaps. The final aim is to improve both the strategic and operational interventions and research, making operations more pointed and strategic while research becomes more accurate and up to date.

5. The Global Legal Advisory Programme

When discussing cross-border operational issues such as intelligence exchange, controlled delivery, border liaison offices, joint operations, and money laundering, legal issues often come in the picture. UNODC assists requesting member states to increase their legal capacity to effectively control drug abuse and trafficking by establishing appropriate legislative and administrative measures, becoming party to and fully implement the international drug control conventions.
RAINBOW STRATEGY

A REGIONAL SOLUTION TO A NATIONAL CHALLENGE

UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime
FUNDING PARTNERS

Canada
The Rainbow Strategy was initiated with financial support from Canada

OTHER FUNDING PARTNERS TO UNODC PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE RAINBOW STRATEGY

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Czech Republic
European Union
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Liechtenstein
Luxemburg
Netherlands
Norway
Russian Federation
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States of America

Version 1, October 2008

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr. Antonino De Leo
Project Coordinator, the Paris Pact Initiative
Europe, West and Central Asia Unit
Division for Operations
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Tel: (+39-1) 26060-5245
Fax: (+39-1) 26060-5821
Email: antonino.deleo@unodc.org


Ms. Linda Thomas
Project Assistant, the Paris Pact Initiative
Europe, West and Central Asia Unit
Division for Operations
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Tel: (+39-1) 26060-4365
Fax: (+39-1) 26060-5821
Email: linda.thomas@unodc.org

Address: Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria