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**Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National  
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

Yamoussoukro, 8-12 September 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**Current situation with respect to regional and subregional  
cooperation in countering drug trafficking****Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and  
worldwide\*\****Summary*

This report provides an overview of the latest trends in illicit drug production and trafficking in Africa and worldwide, based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. With regard to illicit drug cultivation and production, the report focuses on 2005-2007. With regard to seizure statistics, the report focuses on 2005 and 2006.

The illicit market for cannabis remains the largest illicit drug market in the region and the world. While the global cannabis market has remained relatively stable, cannabis herb seizures in Africa have increased by more than 50 per cent from 2005 to 2006 and accounted for roughly one quarter of the global seizures in 2006. Cannabis resin seizures in Africa increased by 11 per cent over the same period, while global seizures declined by approximately 18 per cent.

Although the global market for cocaine is stable overall, there has been a significant increase in cocaine seizures in the African region in the period 2002-2006, resulting in the African region's share of the global seizures rising to above 1 per cent for the first time in 2006, reaching 2.2 per cent of the global total. African seizures of cocaine in 2006 amounted to 15 metric tons, which is almost 9 times the 2005 level.

While global production of opium continues to increase and to shift in concentration to Afghanistan, heroin seizures in Africa remain below 1 per cent of the global total. However, a trend of increasing heroin seizures in North Africa in

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\* UNODC/HONLAF/2008/1.

\*\* This document has not been edited.



the reporting period, coupled with the reappearance of poppy seed seizures in the same subregion, are causes for concern.

The market for amphetamine-type stimulants has also remained stable at the global level, but in Africa seizures of ecstasy and amphetamines continue to fluctuate. In 2006 ecstasy seizures spiked back up to 27.5 kilograms, which is more than 20 times the seizure of 2005 and constituted 0.6 per cent of the global seizures. Regional seizures of stimulants in the amphetamine group accounted for 3 per cent of the global total in 2006, which is a decrease from the high-levels observed in 2005 but a significant increase from 2004.

Among the depressants, seizures of methaqualone and khat more than quadrupled in the region in the period from 2005 to 2006. While methaqualone seizures globally actually outpaced those in the African region, global seizures of khat have been stable since 2004.

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Purpose**

1. The present report provides an overview of trends in illicit drug production and trafficking worldwide and in Africa.
2. The aim of the report is to support national authorities in their efforts to combat illicit drug production and trafficking more effectively and to improve the coordination of countermeasures at the regional and subregional levels.

### **B. Sources of information**

3. Information on illicit drug crop cultivation and production of plant-based drugs has been drawn from the latest illicit crop monitoring surveys published by UNODC. Seizure statistics are based on data provided by governments to UNODC, unless otherwise explicitly noted. The primary sources of information on drug trafficking were the replies to the Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ), Part III (Illicit supply of drugs), submitted by governments for 2006 and previous years. The ARQ, Part III for 2006, was submitted by 126 out of 215 countries and territories worldwide, while 29 out of 55 countries replied from the African region. Other supplementary sources of information used, included reports on significant drug seizures received by the UNODC, as well as the *World Drug Report 2008*, published by the UNODC.

### **C. Data limitations**

4. In general statistics on drug seizures offer valid, indirect indicators of trafficking trends. However, they should be treated with caution, as they also reflect different reporting practices and depend on the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities.

## **II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, 2005-2007**

### **A. Cannabis**

5. Unlike other illicit crops, such as coca and opium poppy, cannabis lends itself to diverse cultivation methods, being easily grown in varied environments. This renders assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. However, UNODC has estimated that cannabis, in the reporting period, continued to dominate the world's illicit drug markets in terms of pervasiveness of cultivation, volume of production, and number of consumers.

6. Cannabis herb is reported to be cultivated in 172 countries and territories. The number of cannabis users worldwide estimated at almost 166 million, or 3.9 per cent

of the global population in the 15-64 age bracket in 2006/2007.<sup>1</sup> The prevalence rates were highest in the Oceania region, followed by North America and Africa.

7. During the 1998-2006 period, use of cannabis in Africa increased more than the cannabis use observed at the global level. However, recent reports indicate that the expansion of cannabis use in the region has been curbed. A total of 12 countries in the African region reported rising levels of cannabis use in 2006, while 9 perceived the situation to have stabilized and 2 reported a decline. The highest prevalence rates in Africa are found among the countries of West and Central Africa (12.6 per cent) followed by the countries of southern Africa (8.4 per cent).

8. According to data received by UNODC, potential global cannabis herb production was estimated at 41,400 metric tons for 2006, which represents a slight decrease on the 42,000 metric ton estimate for 2005. In 2006, the Americas accounted for 55 per cent of global cannabis herb production, followed by Africa (22 per cent), Asia (16 per cent), Europe (6 per cent) and Oceania (1 per cent).

9. According to estimates for 2006, Mexico was the world's largest producer of cannabis herb. The second largest producer in North America was the United States of America. In the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, cannabis production takes place in almost all the countries. However Paraguay is the largest producer. In Asia, the largest producers by subregion were Afghanistan in South-West Asia, India in South Asia, Philippines in South-East Asia and Kazakhstan in the C.I.S. countries.<sup>2</sup> Changes in the regional breakdown suggest that cannabis herb production increased in 2005 in Asia, Europe and Latin America (including the Caribbean), but declined in North America and Africa.

10. In the African region, cannabis cultivation can be found in most countries, but the largest producers are South Africa, followed by Malawi, Zambia and Swaziland. In addition, Nigeria, Ghana and several other West African countries (including Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Togo) produce relatively large amounts, as does the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Egypt and Morocco (which is known mainly as a cannabis resin producer).

11. Cannabis resin production is far more regionally focused than production of cannabis herb. Estimates of global cannabis resin production indicate a decrease to 6,000 metric tons in 2006, from 6,600 metric tons in 2005 and 7,500 metric tons in 2004. The decline in the 2004-2006 period was largely due to reduced cannabis resin production in Morocco, which in spite of this remained the largest cannabis resin producer in the world in 2006, supplying primarily the illicit markets of Western Europe and North Africa.

12. Worth noticing though is that Morocco's prominence as a source country of cannabis resin is declining. Over the 1999-2003 period, 31 per cent<sup>3</sup> of the countries reporting on cannabis resin cited Morocco as the origin. Over the 2004-2006 period, 27 per cent of reporting countries cited Morocco, as the source country of the cannabis resin encountered on their domestic market, followed by Spain and Portugal. In 2006, mention of Morocco fell to 18 per cent and

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2008*.

<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth of Independent States.

<sup>3</sup> UNODC, *World Drug Report 2005*, Volume I.

UNODC surveys there in 2005 found 76,400 hectares<sup>4</sup> of cannabis plants in cultivation, down from 134,000 hectares in 2003.<sup>5</sup>

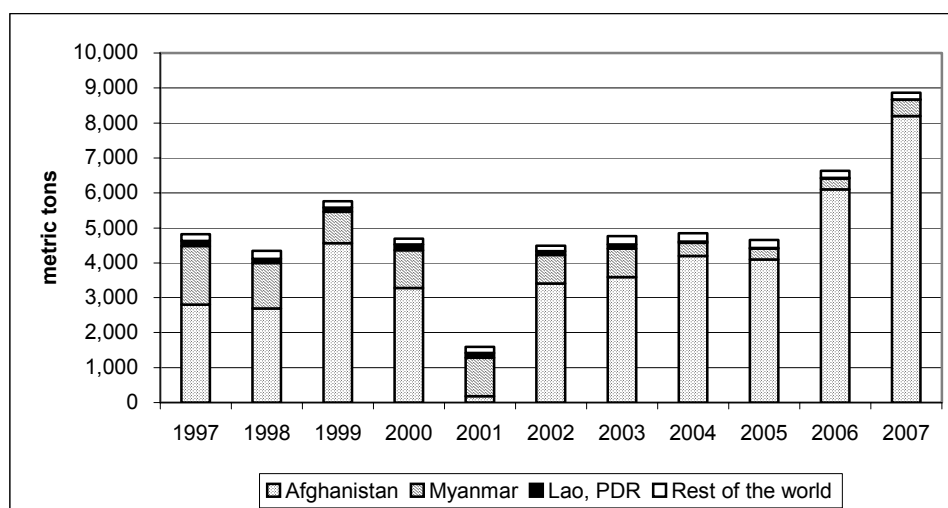
13. The UNODC's survey of the drug situation in Afghanistan found an increase in the area under cannabis cultivation from 30,000 hectares in 2004/05 to 50,000 hectares in 2005/06 and 70,000 hectares in 2007, which is equivalent to 27 per cent of the area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in that country.<sup>6</sup> Other countries frequently cited as sources of cannabis resin are Pakistan, Nepal, India, the Central Asian states and other C.I.S. countries.

## B. Opium

14. There has been significant growth in the production of opium in recent years. The total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation globally in 2007 was approximately 235,700 hectares, an increase of 17 per cent on 2006 (201,000 hectares).<sup>7</sup> Global illicit opium production in 2007 is estimated at 8,870 metric tons, an increase of one third over 2006 production (6,610 metric tons of opium). (See Figure I).

Figure I.

### Global illicit opium production, 1997-2007



15. In 2007, Afghanistan was by far the most important opium producing country followed by Myanmar. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 illicit opium production became more highly concentrated in Afghanistan, which accounted for 93 per cent of global opium production in 2007, compared with levels around 40 per cent at the beginning of the 1990s. Cultivation of illicit opium poppy in Afghanistan rose by 59 per cent

<sup>4</sup> No surveys were done in 2006 and 2007.

<sup>5</sup> UNODC, *Morocco Cannabis Survey 2005*.

<sup>6</sup> UNODC and Government of Afghanistan, Ministry of Counter Narcotics, *Afghanistan Opium Poppy Survey 2007*.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007* (October 2007).

in 2006 (165,000 ha) and by 17 per cent in 2007 (193,000 ha).<sup>8</sup> Opium production in Afghanistan is estimated at 8,200 metric tons in 2007, an increase of 34 per cent over 2006, when it was estimated at 6,100 tons.

16. In contrast, significant progress has been made during the last decade in the Golden Triangle, the countries of Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand, which for so long has been associated with large scale illicit opium production. Thailand has been de facto opium-free for several years. Vietnam is also de facto opium-free. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has cut opium production by 94 per cent in less than a decade. Myanmar's share of the world opium market has fallen from 30 per cent in 1998 to under 6 per cent in 2007.

17. In the region of the Americas, opium poppy continues to be cultivated for use in the illicit markets in North America, although at a much lower level compared to South-West and South-East Asia. The most important producers in this region are Mexico and Colombia, although production in Colombia has declined significantly since 1998.

18. Significant eradication of opium poppy was reported in Afghanistan, increasing from 15,300 hectares in 2006 to 19,047 hectares in 2007. Opium poppy eradication in Myanmar decreased 9 per cent to 3,598 hectares in 2007. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, opium poppy eradication decreased 49 per cent, from 1,518 hectares in 2006 to 779 hectares in 2007.

19. Increasing amounts of opium have been processed into heroin within Afghanistan's borders in recent years. This is evidenced by reports from the Afghan authorities on the destruction of some 125 rudimentary heroin laboratories in 2004, 188 in 2005 and 269 in 2006. High numbers of laboratories dismantled in 2006 have also been reported by the Russian Federation (225) and Moldova (112).

20. Overall, the consumer market for opiates remained rather stable, despite increases in countries along major trafficking routes. The number of opiate users globally (annual prevalence rate) is estimated at around 16.5 million people or 0.4 per cent of the global population age 15-65 in 2006. The regions with the highest rates of use are Europe and North America, but more than half of the world's opiate-using population lives in Asia. The prevalence rate for Africa is estimated at 0.3 per cent.

21. In Africa almost all opiate consumption is in the form of heroin, with the exception for Egypt where significant consumption of (locally harvested) opium takes place in addition to heroin. Data relating to heroin use trends received from African countries suggest that heroin consumption continued to rise in countries of eastern and southern Africa and some countries of western Africa. While expert perceptions in only three African countries indicated declines in use, in eight countries expert perceptions pointed to increasing use; in seven use was perceived as stable in 2006.<sup>9</sup>

22. Such an increase is supported, for South Africa in particular, by the data on treatment demand. In South Africa, the proportion of heroin as a primary drug in treatment demand (including alcohol) has been steadily on the rise over the

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<sup>8</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007* (October 2007).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2008*.

last decade, increasing from 1 per cent in 1996 to 7 per cent in 2006, and reaching 8.5 per cent in the first two quarters of 2007. Over the last few years, strong increases in treatment admissions for heroin have been registered in the Western Cape region (Cape Town), in Guateng (Pretoria and Johannesburg), in KwaZulu-Natal (Durban, Pietermaritzburg), the northernmost province along the Indian Ocean, and in the landlocked northern province of Mpulanga, bordering Mozambique.<sup>10</sup>

### C. Coca

23. In recent years the global cocaine market has shown signs of stability, but significant changes have occurred over the 2006-2007 period. Colombia, Peru and Bolivia remain the main cultivators of coca bush. In 2007, the total area in these three countries estimated to be under coca cultivation rose by 16 per cent, to 181,600 hectares. Of that total, 54.5 per cent was in Colombia, 29.6 per cent in Peru and 15.9 per cent in Bolivia. While expansion in Peru and Bolivia was moderate, coca cultivation in Colombia grew by 27 per cent.

24. Although coca cultivation increased, the estimated coca production in 2007 remained stable at 2006 levels. This is due to an apparent shift of cultivation from high-yielding to low-yielding areas. The total production of cocaine in 2007 is estimated at 994 metric tons: 600 metric tons in Colombia, 290 metric tons in Peru and 104 metric tons in Bolivia.

25. An estimated 16 million people, or 0.37 per cent of the global population aged 15-64, used cocaine in 2006.<sup>11</sup> The region of the Americas has the highest estimated prevalence rate, followed by Oceania (1.37 per cent) and Europe (0.73 per cent). Africa is estimated to have a prevalence rate of 0.22 per cent, and a total of 1.1 million users. The use of cocaine in the region has seen a rise from 2001/2002, where 11 countries reported rising levels of cocaine use, this number has over the period 2005/2006 increased to 14. The increase seems particularly located to western and southern Africa and along the Atlantic coast of Northern Africa, which is in accordance with the increasing reports on Africa being used as transshipment location for South American cocaine bound for Europe.

## III. Trends in illicit drug trafficking, up to 2006

26. The table below shows the reported drug seizures for Africa and globally in 2005 and 2006, with a breakdown for the various drug types. Seizures reported by countries in the African region are expressed both in gross amounts and as a percentage of the global total for the corresponding drug type.

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<sup>10</sup> South African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SACENDU), *Monitoring Alcohol and Drug Use trends in South Africa, July 1996-June 2007* (Research Brief, Vol. 10 (2), 2007; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2008*.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2008*.

Table I.  
**Reported drug seizures in Africa and worldwide, 2005 and 2006**

Drug Group	Drug	2005			2006		
		Africa (Kilograms)	Global (Kilograms)	Percentage of global seizures occurring in Africa	Africa (Kilograms)	Global (Kilograms)	Percentage of global seizures occurring in Africa
Opiates:	Opium (raw and prepared)	44.5	341 415.1	<b>0.01</b>	33.0	381 576.2	<b>0.01</b>
	Heroin	227.0	57 933.3	<b>0.39</b>	289.4	56 785.0	<b>0.51</b>
Coca:	Cocaine (base and salts)	1 752.3	704 685.1	<b>0.25</b>	15 005.0	656 114.6	<b>2.29</b>
Cannabis:	Cannabis herb	791 016.2	4 555 383.8	<b>17.36</b>	1 214 679.1	4 985 717.8	<b>24.36</b>
	Cannabis resin	119 545.1	1 245 855.2	<b>9.60</b>	132 783.6	1 027 429.5	<b>12.92</b>
ATS:	Ecstasy	1.3	5 039.9	<b>0.03</b>	27.5	4 459.0	<b>0.62</b>
Depressants:	Methaqualone	158.9	630.9	<b>25.19</b>	773.5	5 193.5	<b>14.89</b>

27. In broad terms, the share of global seizures attributable to countries in the African region can be used as an indicator of the relative scale of drug trafficking in Africa across different drug types. In terms of the current situation, cannabis continues to be a major source of concern, with 24 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures and 13 per cent of global cannabis resin seizures being reported in African countries. In terms of an increasing trend, cocaine raises serious concern, as cocaine seizures have increased dramatically to approximately 15 metric tons in 2006, up from 1.75 metric tons in 2005, an almost 9-fold increase. Taking into account that global cocaine seizures decreased by 7 per cent in the same period, and estimates for this period indicate that global cocaine production levels are overall stable, the increase in African seizures cannot be attributed to a general global trend but rather corroborates the increasing use of new traffic routes through West Africa. However, this data should be interpreted with caution, as discussed in section III, subsection C, of this report. For an overview of the growth of seizures for various drug types in the region see figure II and the corresponding table II.

Figure II.  
Growth of reported drug seizures in Africa, relative to 2002

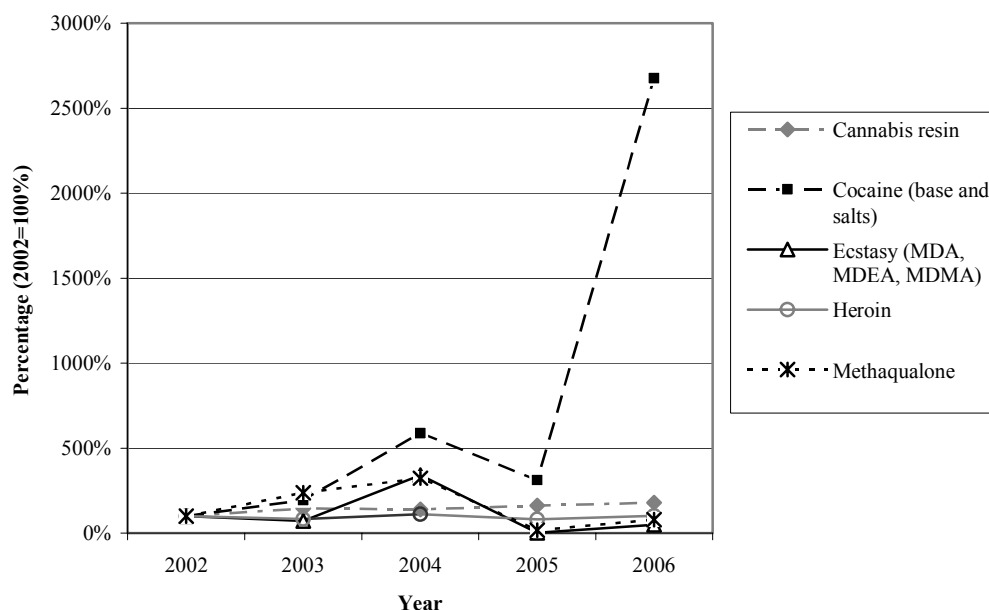


Table II.  
Growth of reported drug seizures in Africa since 2002

	2002 (100%)	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	kilograms	kilograms	versus 2002	kilograms	versus 2002	kilograms	versus 2002	kilograms	versus 2002
Cannabis resin	74 231	107 139	144%	103 353	139%	119 545	161%	132 784	179%
Cocaine (base and salts)	560	1 089	194%	3 296	588%	1 752	313%	15 005	2677%
Ecstasy (MDA, MDEA, MDMA)	57	41	71%	195	342%	1	2%	27	48%
Heroin	283	236	83%	314	111%	227	80%	289	102%
Methaqualone	990	2 350	237%	3 194	322%	159	16%	713	78%

## A. Cannabis

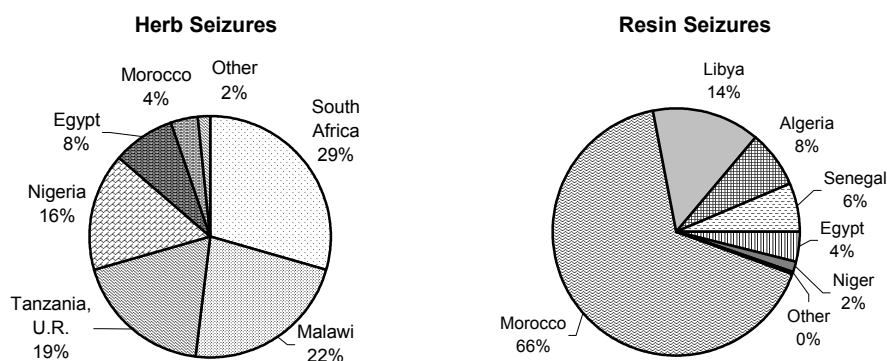
28. Seizure data indicates that the scale of cannabis trafficking in Africa continues to be greater than that of other drug types. The 791 metric tons of cannabis herb seized in the region in 2005 represented 17 per cent of global seizures. These figures rose to 1,214 metric tons in 2006, constituting 24 per cent of the global total. The increase of 53 per cent from 2005 to 2006 in the quantity of cannabis herb seized in Africa substantially outperforms the corresponding global increase of 9 per cent.

29. Cannabis resin seizures in Africa increased from 120 metric tons in 2005 to 133 metric tons in 2006, which is an 11 per cent increase, while global

seizures decreased by 18 per cent over the same period (1,246 metric tons in 2005 to 1,027 metric tons in 2006). Africa's share of global seizures for this period increased from roughly 10 per cent to 13 per cent (see table I).

Figure III.

**Country distribution of cannabis herb and cannabis resin seizures in Africa, 2006**



### 1. Cannabis herb

30. Three countries with historically high cannabis herb seizures registered significant increases from 2005 to 2006, although seizures remained well below 2004 levels. These were Nigeria, with a 53 per cent increase (from 126 metric tons in 2005 to 192 metric tons in 2006), Tanzania, with a 50 per cent increase (from 150 metric tons in 2005 to 225 metric tons in 2006) and South Africa, with a 22 per cent increase (from 292 metric tons in 2005 to 359 metric tons in 2006). Seizures in Malawi outpaced the previous mentioned increases and spiked to 271 metric tons in 2006, which is the second-largest seizure level observed in the African region for that year and approximately 16 times the 2005 level (16.9 metric tons). Seizures in Egypt increased by 29 per cent, from 78.1 metric tons in 2005 to 101 metric tons in 2006, reversing the downward trend observed in the previous reporting period, while seizures reported by Morocco for 2006 confirmed the previous year's trend, decreasing by 61 per cent to 46 metric tons from 116 metric tons.

### 2. Cannabis resin

31. Incomplete data makes it slightly harder to identify a trend based in reports on recent resin seizures. Seizures in Morocco are following a stable trend, and decreased by 4 per cent from 2005 to 2006. Reported seizures in Libya however have increased by 64 per cent from 2005 to 2006, while seizures in Egypt in 2006 increased dramatically, more than 3-fold from 2005. Even by comparison with the peak 2004 level (the highest level for Egypt since 1997), resin seizures reported by Egypt rose 2.75 times.

Figure IV.  
Significant cannabis resin seizures in Africa, 2003-2006

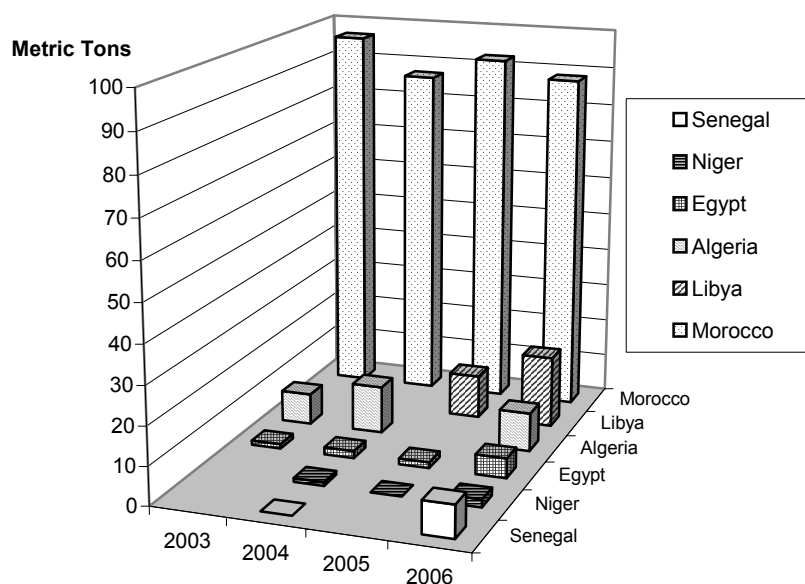


Table III.  
Overview of significant cannabis resin seizures in Africa, 2003-2006

	Senegal (Metric tons)	Niger (Metric tons)	Egypt (Metric tons)	Algeria (Metric tons)	Libya (Metric tons)	Morocco (Metric tons)
2003			1 199.000	8 068.302		96 305.867
2004	0.700	975.000*	1 868.000	12 373.086		86 800.000
2005		0.984*	1 529.000		11 321.344	92 423.077
2006	8 393.011	2 033.000	5 146.000	10 046.113	18 605.806	88 280.000

\* HONLAF Data.

32. In 2006 the subregion of North Africa alone accounted for 122 metric tons, or 92 per cent of the total cannabis resin seizures in the region. Of this, Morocco, Libya, Algeria and Egypt accounted for 99 per cent. Another country reporting sizeable seizures was Senegal, with 8 metric tons, which is equivalent to 6 per cent of African total and 81 per cent of seizures reported by countries in the West and Central African region.

## B. Opiates

33. The class of opiates is comprised of various sedative narcotics containing opium or one or more of its natural or synthetic derivatives, and includes heroin, morphine, codeine, methadone and the various forms of opium itself: liquid, raw and prepared.

34. Global opium seizures in 2006 amounted to 382 metric tons, up 12 per cent on a year earlier (341 metric tons). Opium seizures in 2006 were concentrated

in Iran (311 metric tons) and Afghanistan (41 metric tons). These two countries together accounted for 92 per cent of global opium seizures in 2006. Global morphine seizures rose from 32 metric tons in 2005 to 46 metric tons in 2006, an increase of 45 per cent. Morphine seizures in 2006 were concentrated in Pakistan (33 metric tons) and Iran (11 metric tons). These two countries together accounted for 93 per cent of global morphine seizures in 2006.

35. Unlike opium and morphine, global heroin seizures in 2006 remained stable at 57 metric tons (58 metric tons in 2005). The distribution of heroin seizures is also less concentrated than those of opium and morphine, the largest seizures being in Iran (10.6 metric tons) and Turkey (10.3 metric tons). However, these two countries together only account for 37 per cent of the global total.

36. Improvements in precursor control have contributed to the stabilization of global heroin seizures. The international rescheduling of acetic anhydride, the key precursor for heroin manufacture, from a Table II to a Table I substance has tightened international control. Also, various international cooperation efforts (such as Project Cohesion and Operation Trans-shipment) may have raised awareness in the commercial sector, reducing the readiness of companies to provide huge quantities of acetic anhydride to unknown and suspicious customers.

37. Since 1998, reported heroin seizures in Africa have never exceeded 0.7 per cent of the global total. Africa's share of the global seizure figures for opium (raw and prepared) and morphine is even lower than that for heroin, reflecting the fact that the major cultivation and production areas have traditionally not been located in Africa.

38. In 2005, 30 countries in the African region reported seizures of opiates. All 30 reported heroin seizures, and the only countries in the region to report other opiate seizures were Egypt (44 kilograms of opium), Tanzania (1.4 kilograms of morphine), Nigeria (70 kilograms of unspecified other opiates) and Mauritius (0.2 kilograms of unspecified other opiates). Egypt was the sole country to report seizures of poppy seed (39 kilograms) and poppy plant/capsule (30 kilograms).

39. In 2006, the number of countries in the region reporting seizures of opiates was reduced to 24. Of these, 22 countries reported seizures of heroin while 5 reported seizures of morphine. Egypt was the only country in the African region to report seizures of opium as well as seizures of poppy seed (118 kilograms). Mauritius reported seizures of 0.3 kilograms of unspecified other opiates.

40. In 2006, total heroin seizures in Africa rose to 289 kilograms in 2006, an increase of 27 per cent over the level in 2005 (227 kilograms). Seizures in 2006 are slightly below the level in 2004 (313.7 kilograms), which still represents the highest levels in the period 1998-2006.

41. In 2005 poppy seed seizures (39 kilograms) were reported in the African region for the first time since 2000. These seizures trebled in 2006 (118 kilograms). All of these poppy seed seizures were reported by Egypt. The re-emergence of poppy seed seizures in Egypt also coincides with an increase in heroin seizures in the North African region, as discussed below.

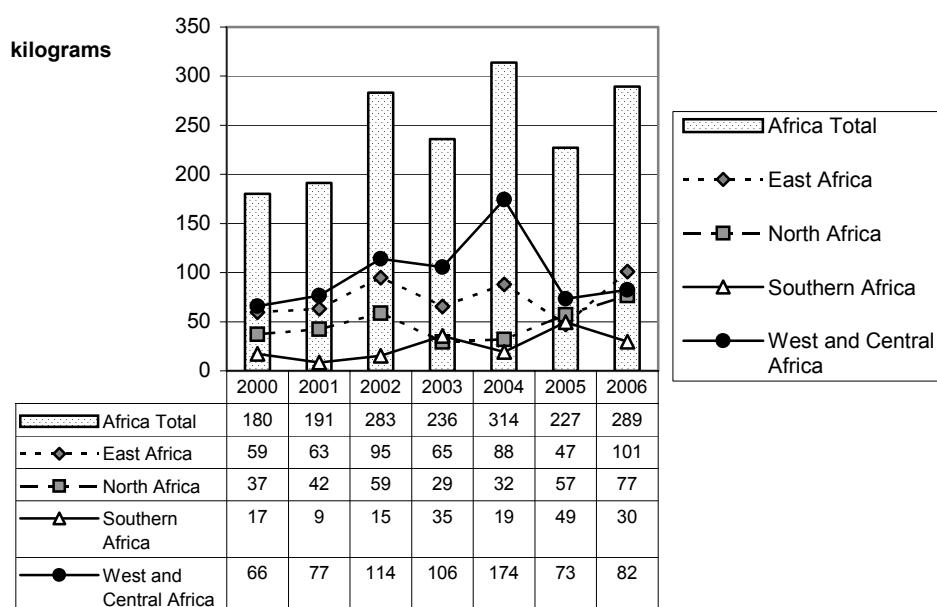
Table IV.  
**Opiate and poppy seed seizures in Africa, 2001-2006**

	Heroin (Kilograms)	Opium (Kilograms)	Morphine (Kilograms)	Poppy seed (Kilograms)
2001	191.2	40.0	6.1	
2002	283.3	33.0	0.9	
2003	235.8	44.5	5.9	
2004	313.7	117.0	0.0	
2005	227.0	44.5	1.4	39.0
2006	289.4	33.0	37.1	117.7

42. A breakdown of heroin seizures in Africa into subregions reveals interesting trends (see figure V). The subregions of West and Central Africa and East Africa have followed the same developments in the period 2000-2006, reporting consistently increasing or decreasing seizures and as such forming the trend for the total seizures in the African region. On the other hand, with the single exception of the transition 2001-2002, reports from the countries in the subregion of Southern Africa, reflects an opposite trend for the same period. This could be due to the successes and effectiveness of interdiction efforts by authorities in one subregion, causing trafficking organizations to shift the supply routes to West, Central or East Africa, possibly to find its way to Southern Africa.

43. In the period 2000-2005, the subregion with the highest reported heroin seizures was West and Central Africa, although the total for the subregion never exceeded 56 per cent of the African total. In 2006 it was surpassed by East Africa, whose seizures more than doubled over 2005 levels, reaching 101 kilograms.

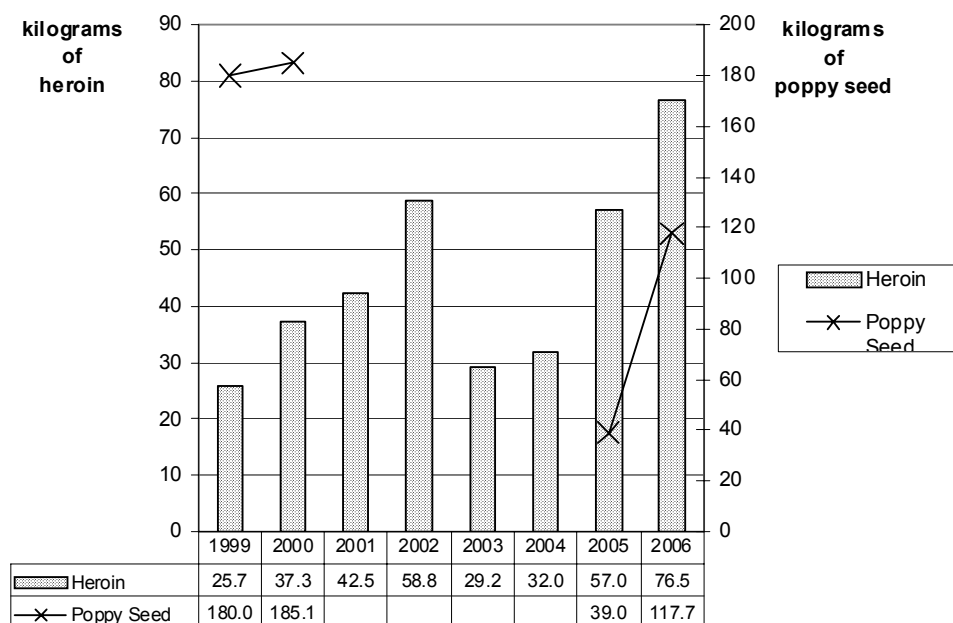
Figure V.  
**Reported heroin seizures in Africa, by subregion**



44. The subregion of North Africa has followed a different trend, which has been on the rise for three consecutive years, up from 29 kilograms in 2003 to 77 kilograms in 2006. A history of heroin seizures, together with poppy seed seizures, in North Africa is presented in figure VI.

Figure VI.

**Heroin and poppy seed seizures in North Africa, 1999-2006**



### C. Cocaine

45. The number of countries and territories worldwide reporting cocaine seizures went from 102 in 2005 to 100 in 2006, but the number of African countries reporting seizures increased from 15 to 21. Global cocaine seizures decreased to 656 metric tons in 2006, from 705 metric tons in 2005 (7 per cent decrease), reversing the previous increasing trend in the period 2002-2005. The largest seizures were reported by Colombia (181 metric tons), the USA (147 metric tons), Spain (50 metric tons), Venezuela (39 metric tons), Portugal (34 metric tons) and Ecuador (34 metric tons).

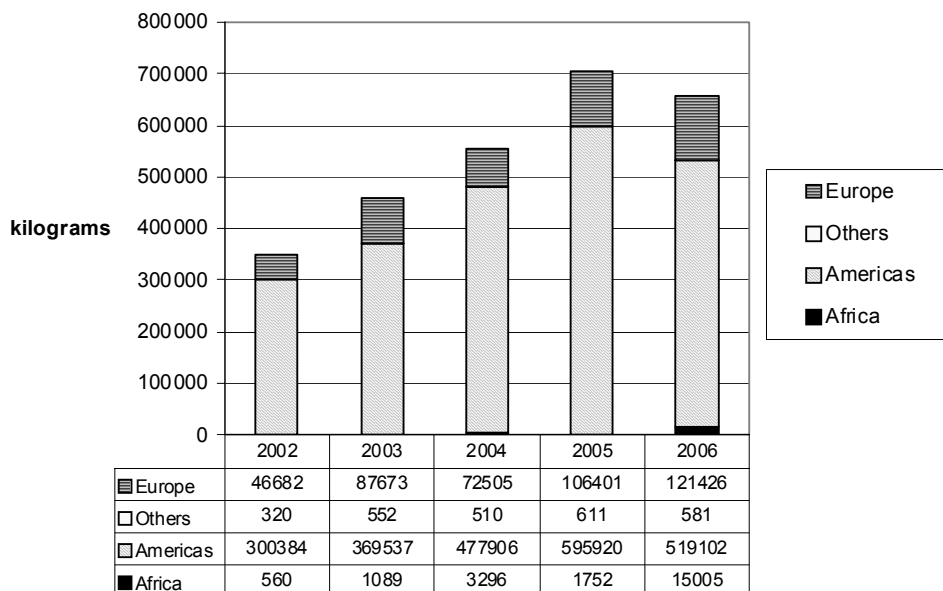
46. Although the Americas continued to account for more than three quarters of worldwide cocaine seizures, in 2006 seizures in this region declined to 519 metric tons (from 596 metric tons in 2005), while seizures in Europe increased to 121 metric tons from 106 metric tons in 2005. These two regions together continued to account for more than 97 per cent of global seizures in 2006, the percentage of seizures reported from countries in Europe increased from 15 per cent to 18 per cent while that for the Americas decreased from 85 per cent to 79 per cent.

47. In 2006, in spite of the global decrease in cocaine seizures, African seizures increased significantly, to 15,005 kilograms (8.6 times the level in 2005). In 2006

the African region’s share of global cocaine seizures rose above 1 per cent, for the first time, reaching a little over 2 per cent. This supports other evidence and data that new routes of cocaine trafficking from South America to Europe via countries in the region of West and Central Africa, is increasingly being used for transshipment of cocaine.

Figure VII.

**Global cocaine seizures, 2002-2006**



48. Nigeria’s seizures alone amounted to 14.4 metric tons, more than 96 per cent of the African total. Of this a single seizure accounted for 14.2 metric tons, and concerned a shipment of cement mixed with cocaine. In this instance, analysis of samples from this seizure produced conflicting reports, leaving an element of doubt as to the exact quantity of cocaine seized. For this reason, a detailed presentation of cocaine seizures reported by countries in this subregion other than Nigeria is also given (see Figure VIII and Table V).

Figure VIII.  
Major Cocaine Seizures in West and Central Africa, 2002-2006, except Nigeria

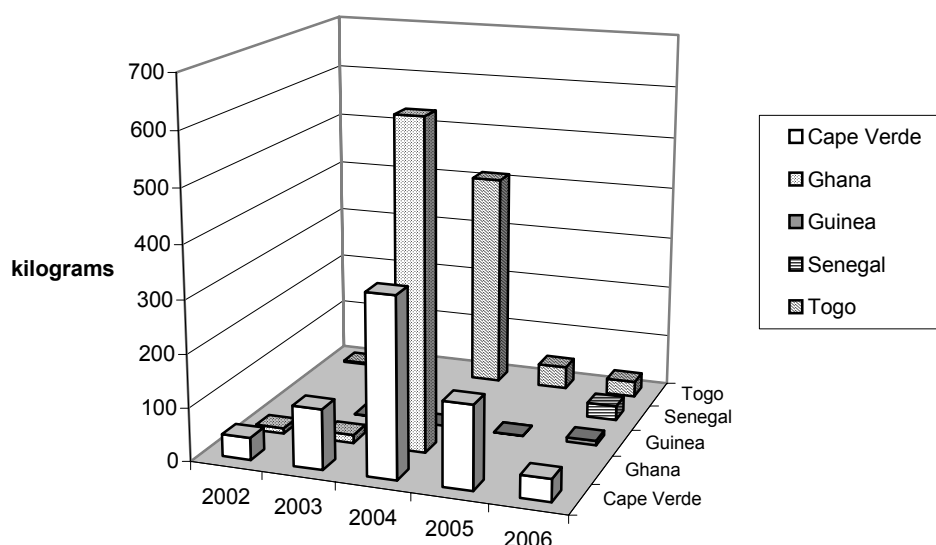


Table V.  
Major cocaine seizures in West and Central Africa, 2002-2006, except Nigeria

	Cape Verde (Kilograms)	Ghana (Kilograms)	Guinea (Kilograms)	Senegal (Kilograms)	Togo (Kilograms)
2002	41.82	10.40			3.05
2003	113.27	15.37	0.77		
2004	335.68	616.68	0.10		412.00
2005	157.00		0.14		43.62
2006	42.13		8.50	27.70	29.69

49. Other countries in the subregion of West and Central Africa reporting the major cocaine seizures in 2006 were Cape Verde (42 kilograms), Togo (30 kilograms), Senegal (28 kilograms) and Guinea (8 kilograms). This data would indicate an increase in trafficking in Senegal, however only ICPO/INTERPOL data is available for 2005 (18.5 kilograms). Reported cocaine seizures in Cape Verde and Togo have since the peak in 2004 decreased. Based on the data from the ARQ, there has also been an increase in seizures in Guinea from 2005 to 2006. However government sources other than the ARQ indicated seizures amounting to 40 kilograms in 2005, which would negate this and result in a decrease for the relevant period.

50. Data from the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)/INTERPOL indicated seizures of 661 kilograms in Ghana in 2005, which is the only available data for Ghana for the reporting period 2005 and 2006. This would represent a 7 per cent increase over 2004 levels but more notably an increase of 43 times

above 2003 levels. HONLAF data for Benin shows a decline from 583 kilograms in 2004 to 28 kilograms in 2005, while INCSR data for 2006 indicated 28 kilograms again in 2006.<sup>12</sup>

51. Without the 2006 report from Nigeria, the evidence for an increase in cocaine trafficking through West and Central Africa is not very strong, in terms of the seizure quantities reported by governments through the ARQ. In 2005 the ARQ Part III was received from 6 out of 26 countries in this subregion, and 13 out of 26 in 2006.

52. However, UNODC's database of individual drug seizures shows that, out of the total number of cocaine seizures made in Europe in 2007 where the "origin" was identified, 22 per cent was identified as having been smuggled through Africa to Europe, up from 12 per cent in 2006 and 5 per cent in 2004. The most frequently mentioned country of origin of cocaine trafficked through Africa is Colombia, followed by Peru. The most important transit country for cocaine seizures made in Africa is Brazil, followed by Venezuela.

53. Apart from the subregion of West and Central Africa, the major cocaine seizures above 10 kilograms were reported by South Africa (360 kilograms), Morocco (54 kilograms) and Tunisia (30 kilograms). Data from the World Customs Organization also indicated seizures in Kenya in excess of 10 kilograms.

#### **D. Amphetamine-type stimulants**

54. Amphetamine-type stimulants are broadly divided into two groups: the ecstasy group, and the amphetamine group. In 2005, a total of 87 countries and territories reported seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS); of these 8 were from the African region. In 2006, 87 countries and territories worldwide reported ATS seizures, and of these, 8 were from the African region. Global seizures of ATS increased again in 2006, reaching almost the peak levels of 2000.

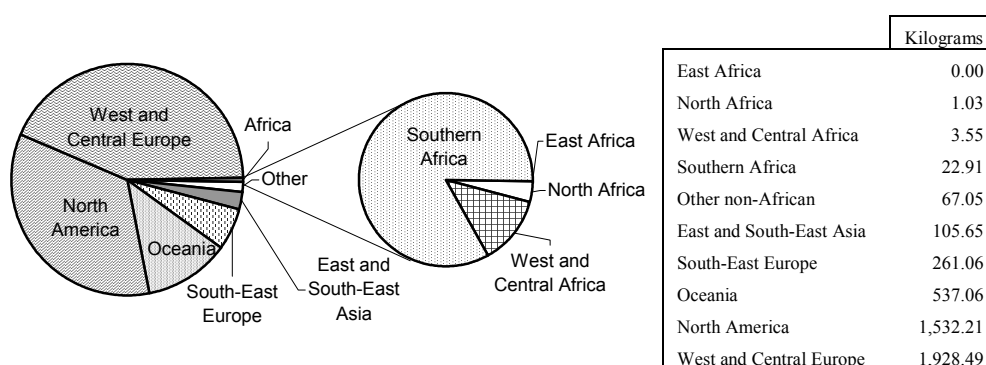
##### **1. "Ecstasy" type of substances**

55. Ecstasy seizures in Africa have fluctuated considerably over the period 2000-2006, reaching a peak of 195 kilograms in 2004 (constituting 2.9 per cent of the global total for that year). In 2005 seizures dropped to 1.35 kilograms, with 6 countries reporting seizures. In 2006 seizures peaked back up to 27.5 kilograms (0.6 per cent of the global total), again with 6 countries reporting seizures, of which South Africa on its own reported seizures of 22.8 kilograms.

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<sup>12</sup> The International Narcotics Control Strategy Report is an annual report by the US Department of State to the US Congress.

Figure IX  
Ecstasy seizures globally and regionally, 2006

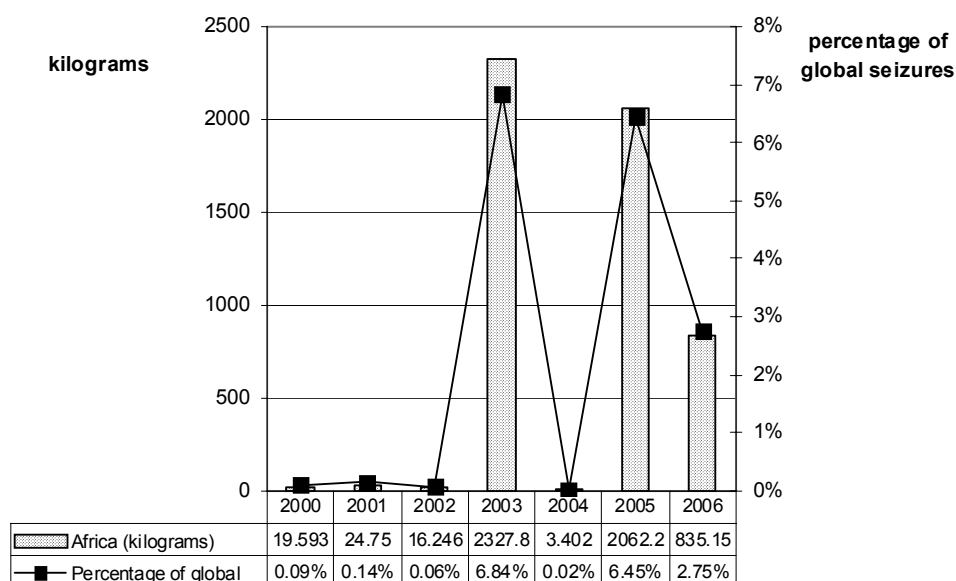


## 2. Amphetamine

56. The amphetamine group of stimulants is usually further subdivided into amphetamine, methamphetamine and “unspecified amphetamines”. In cases where the authorities are unable to forensically identify the specific type of stimulant, the seized quantities are recorded in the last category. On a global scale, methamphetamine continued to account for the majority of amphetamine group seizures, followed by “unspecified amphetamines”. In the African region, virtually all seizures reported by countries are of “unspecified amphetamines”. However recent reports show that South Africa has emerged with increased production and consumption of methamphetamines.

57. In 2005, the total seizures of the amphetamine group from Africa accounted for 6.5 per cent of the global total (2,062 kilograms). This went down to 2.8 per cent (835 kilograms) in 2006. Throughout the period 2000-2006, reported seizures of methamphetamine and amphetamine individually never exceeded 0.1 per cent of the global total, while seizures of unspecified amphetamines in the African region reached 10 per cent of the total global in 2006. See figure X for total seizures in the amphetamine group in Africa since 2000.

Figure X.  
Seizures of ATS, amphetamine group, in Africa, 2000-2006



### 3. Seizures of precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations used in the illicit manufacture of ATS

58. Global seizures of precursor used to produce ATS end-products declined to their lowest level in 5 years, based on seizure data from the International Narcotics Control Board<sup>13</sup> together with ARQ data. In 2006, seizures of ephedrine amounted to 30.2 metric tons, a decrease of 25 per cent on the level in 2005 (40.3 metric tons), and seizures of pseudoephedrine amounted to 0.7 metric tons, down by 12 per cent from 2005 (0.8 metric tons). Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are precursors for methamphetamine. Decreases were also noted in the ecstasy precursors 3,4-MDP-2-P (from 12,924 to 8,816 litres), piperonal (from 6.2 metric tons to 107 grams) and safrole (from 5,707 to 39 litres).

## E. Depressants

59. Methaqualone and khat are the major substances within the category of depressants. Khat is not under international control, but is subject to national control in some countries. Although not very prominent at the global level, both of these substances raise concern for the African region.

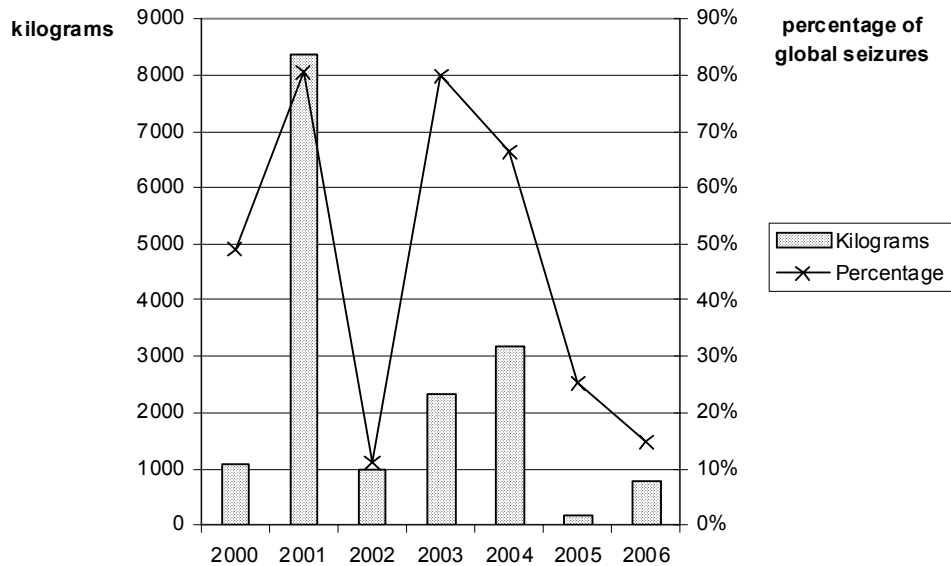
60. The region accounted for roughly 80 per cent of global methaqualone seizures in 2001 and similarly in 2003. Although the percentage of global seizures has been decreasing since 2003, methaqualone seizures in the African region actually increased by 5 times from 2005 to 2006, outpaced by global seizures which

<sup>13</sup> Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, 2007 and prior years (New York, 2008).

increased more than 8 times. The global increase was mainly due to a 9-fold rise in seizures in Asia, while South Africa accounted for more than 99.9 per cent (772 kilograms) of methaqualone seizures in the African region in 2006. For an overview of methaqualone seizures in Africa from 2000-2006, see figure XI.

Figure XI.

**Methaqualone seizures in Africa, 2000-2006**



61. The African region accounted for almost 80 per cent (96 metric tons) of global khat seizures in 2002. Khat seizures in the region then declined for three years in a row, both in terms of actual quantities and as a percentage of global seizures. This trend was reversed however in 2006, as seizures more than quadrupled from 1,267 kilograms in 2005 to 5,691 kilograms in 2006. This raises concern as global seizures have been stable since 2004. Tanzania (5,144 kilograms) accounted for 90 per cent of the African total in 2006.