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Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

Windhoek, 12-16 October 2009

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation in countering drug trafficking****Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking
trends in Africa and worldwide***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of current 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. The report contains information on illicit drug cultivation and production for 2007 and 2008 and statistics on drug seizures for 2007 and, where available, 2008.

Cannabis derivatives remained the most widely trafficked drugs worldwide, accounting for approximately one half of global seizures. In 2007, Morocco continued to be the country reporting the largest annual volume of seizures of cannabis resin among African countries, and Spain reported the largest volume of seizures worldwide. However, in 2008 Morocco reported a reduction in the estimated area under cannabis cultivation. Seizures of cannabis herb in Africa declined significantly in 2007, partially offsetting the increase reported in the Americas.

In 2008, coca bush cultivation remained concentrated in Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The area under coca bush cultivation fell significantly in Colombia, which nevertheless continued to account for approximately one half of global cultivation. Africa continued to play an important role as a transit area for cocaine smuggled from South America to Europe, but some indicators suggested that cocaine trafficking in Africa was undergoing significant changes and that other routes were regaining their importance.

* UNODC/HONLAF/19/1.



In 2008, the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan fell by almost one fifth. Nonetheless, Afghanistan continued to account for the greatest part by far of worldwide opium production. In Africa, limited cultivation of opium poppy and production of opium persisted in Egypt. Opiate seizures in Africa remained a small fraction of the world total, but heroin seizures rose in various parts of Africa, in particular West and Central Africa.

Of the four major classes of illicit drugs, the global market for amphetamine-type stimulants was the most dynamic. In 2007, there were significant increases in global seizures of amphetamine and “ecstasy”-group substances, while the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants shifted to new areas. In Africa, Nigeria reported the largest amount of seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, and reports of clandestine laboratories indicate that the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants continued in South Africa.

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I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. The present report provides an overview of developments in the production or manufacture of and trafficking in the main illicit drugs in Africa and worldwide. The statistics and analysis contained in this report are based on the most recent information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. The report addresses the illicit cultivation of coca bush, opium poppy and cannabis and the illicit production of coca and opium for the years up to and including 2008. With respect to drug trafficking, the report focuses on seizure statistics for 2007 and, where available, 2008 and provides an update on trafficking trends for opiates, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants.¹
3. 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

4. Information on illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs has been drawn mainly from the latest illicit crop monitoring surveys published by UNODC. The primary sources of information on drug trafficking were the replies to part III (Illicit supply of drugs) of the annual reports questionnaire submitted by Governments for 2007 and prior years, as well as information provided for 2008, where available. At the end of June 2009, replies to part III of the annual reports questionnaire for 2007 had been submitted by 116 Member States, including 19 African States.² Supplementary sources of information included reports on significant drug seizures and official Government reports, some of which are published electronically.

C. Data limitations

5. 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 are dependent on the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants, as defined by UNODC, consist of: (a) amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine); (b) “ecstasy” (methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)) and related substances such as methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) (the “‘ecstasy’-group substances”); and (c) a number of other synthetic stimulants such as methcathinone, phentermine and fenetylline.

² The Member States of Africa that replied by June 2009 were Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, 2007-2008

A. Cannabis

6. Unlike illicit crops such as coca leaf and opium poppy, cannabis plant lends itself to diverse cultivation methods. Because cannabis plant can be grown in a variety of environmental conditions, it is difficult to quantify its cultivation and production. Nevertheless, UNODC estimates that cannabis continues to dominate the world's illicit drug markets in terms of pervasiveness of cultivation, volume of production and number of users.

7. In Afghanistan, the area under cannabis plant cultivation increased from 30,000 hectares (ha) in 2005 to 50,000 ha in 2006 and to 70,000 ha in 2007.^{3, 4} To compare, the area under cannabis plant cultivation in Afghanistan in 2007 was 36 per cent of the area under opium poppy cultivation in the country that same year. Through its baseline study of cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan at the end of 2008, UNODC determined that 20 of the country's 34 provinces had substantial cannabis cultivation.

8. In Africa, Burundi reported that cannabis had been cultivated in small quantities in the country in 2008. Cannabis herb production had been observed in the country between the months of March and May. Cameroon determined that the cultivation of cannabis and the production of cannabis herb had increased slightly in 2007. Egypt eradicated 115 ha of cannabis cultivation in 2007 and 132 ha in 2008 and reported that cannabis cultivation in 2007 and 2008 on its territory was concentrated in the Sinai peninsula and Upper Egypt.

9. Eritrea reported that in 2008, there had been some attempts to cultivate cannabis in small amounts in domestic settings and that cannabis cultivation was emerging in various cities. The Gambia reported that cannabis cultivation had increased slightly in 2007. Cultivation of cannabis herb in the Gambia took place in the North Bank region.

10. Ghana reported that in 2008 the introduction of irrigation was enabling farmers to cultivate cannabis herb year round. In spite of that development, the price of cannabis had increased considerably, most likely owing to harvest losses caused by floods in the Volta basin. Cannabis cultivation occurred in all 10 regions of the country.

11. In Madagascar, cannabis was cultivated in 2007 in the regions of Amoron'i Mania, Androy, Anosy, Diana, Ihorombe and Sava. Zimbabwe reported that 85 per cent of the cannabis herb seized in the country in 2007 and 2008 originated in Malawi.

12. The most recent cannabis survey conducted by UNODC in Morocco took place in 2005.⁵ The total area under cannabis cultivation in the country was estimated

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2006* (November 2006).

⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2007* (October 2007).

⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Morocco: Cannabis Survey 2005, Executive Summary* (January 2007).

at 72,500 ha in 2005, down from 134,000 ha in 2003. Morocco estimated that the area under cannabis cultivation remained at that level in 2006 and 2007 but reported that the area under cultivation had fallen to 60,000 ha in 2008 and that 4,377 ha had been eradicated.

13. Nigeria estimated that cannabis herb on its territory in 2007 originated entirely in Nigeria itself. The Republic of Korea estimated that 72.5 per cent of the cannabis herb smuggled into its territory originated in Nigeria.

14. South Africa reported that the price of cannabis in the country had increased slightly in 2007. The national cannabis spraying programme had destroyed an estimated 1,328 tons of cannabis in cultivation areas, resulting in a reduced supply of cannabis on the illicit market. South Africa estimated that only 20 per cent of cannabis herb trafficked in its territory was produced in South Africa, with 75 per cent originating in Lesotho and 5 per cent in Swaziland. However, South Africa was referred to by Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Ireland, Japan, Namibia and Romania as the origin of some of the cannabis herb trafficked in their territory in 2007.

15. Swaziland reported a slight increase in the cultivation of cannabis in 2007 and in 2008, estimating that 37,468 ha were under cannabis cultivation in 2008. Cultivation occurred in the mountainous areas of Hhohho, Manzini, Shiselweni and Lubombo.

16. In the United Republic of Tanzania, 72 ha of cannabis cultivation were eradicated in 2008. The increase in cannabis cultivation in the country was partly attributed to new modes of cultivation in areas not easily reachable by law enforcement authorities and due to the lack of funding for eradication operations. Togo reported that in 2007 cannabis was cultivated in Kouvé, prefecture of Yoto, and Niamtougou, prefecture of Doufelgou.

17. Zambia estimated that 98 per cent of cannabis herb on its territory in 2007 originated in Zambia itself. Zimbabwe reported that in 2008 cannabis cultivation was distributed equally among the areas of Beitbridge, Binga, Mount Darwin, Mutoko and Nyanga.

B. Opiates

18. There was significant growth in the production of opiates over the period 2001-2008, driven mainly by production in Afghanistan. Reports from various sources indicated that illicit cultivation of opium poppy occurred, to a limited extent, in numerous countries worldwide, including some for which survey data were not available. However, the illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan continued to make up a great part of the global total.

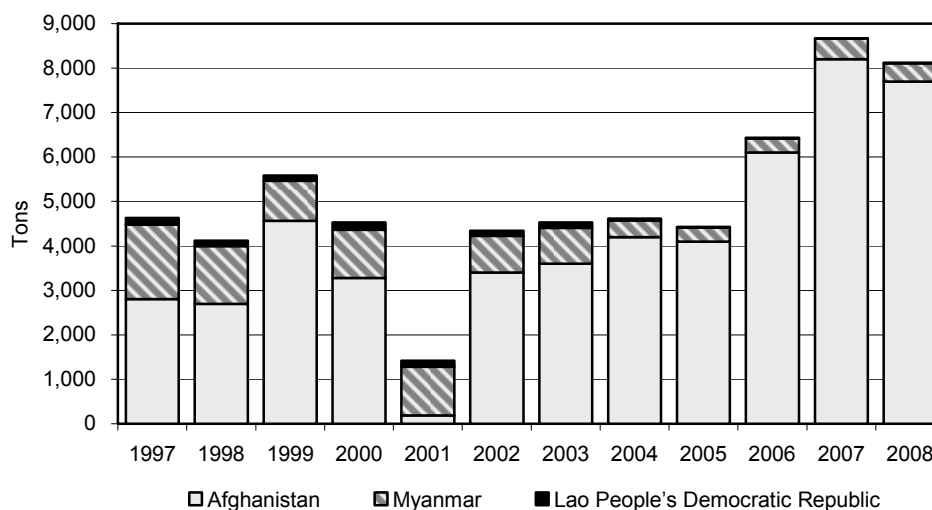
19. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan declined from 193,000 ha in 2007 to 157,000 ha in 2008 (a decrease of 19 per cent).⁶ The decrease was attributed to successful anti-drug-trafficking efforts in the northern and eastern provinces and to weather-related crop failure. The decline followed increases for two consecutive years, as cultivation had risen by 86 per cent between

⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2008* (November 2008).

2005 and 2007. The area of cultivation in 2008 was thus still significantly greater than the areas of cultivation reported throughout the period 2002-2005 (See figure I).

Figure I

Illicit opium production in Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 1997-2008



20. The number of poppy-free provinces in Afghanistan increased from 13 in 2007 to 18 in 2008.⁷ Notably, the province of Nangarhar became poppy-free. Opium poppy cultivation was concentrated in seven provinces in the south and west of Afghanistan: Helmand, Farah, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Nimroz, Zabul and Daykundi. The area under opium poppy cultivation in Helmand alone amounted to 103,590 ha in 2008, essentially the same level as in 2007 (102,770 ha) and accounting for two thirds of the total area under cultivation in Afghanistan in 2008.

21. In spite of the notable decrease in the area under opium poppy cultivation, potential production of opium in Afghanistan decreased by only 6 per cent, from 8,200 tons in 2007 to 7,700 tons in 2008. The average opium yield rose from 42.5 kg/ha in 2007 to 48.8 kg/ha in 2008, due to a shift in cultivation from rain-fed land to well-irrigated land in the south.

22. In South-East Asia, opium poppy cultivation has traditionally taken place mainly in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. In those countries, opium poppy tends to be cultivated on steep hills with poor soil and without irrigation, resulting in yields lower than those in Afghanistan. Thailand's crop monitoring system indicates that only negligible amounts of poppy have been cultivated in the country for some years. Eradication data from the Government of Viet Nam indicate that opium poppy cultivation in that country is also negligible.

23. In Myanmar, the area under opium poppy cultivation decreased from 163,000 ha in 1996 to 21,500 ha in 2006, but increased significantly, to 27,700 ha

⁷ A province is considered to be "poppy free" when the estimated area under opium poppy cultivation is less than 100 ha.

in 2007 and to 28,500 ha in 2008. Opium poppy cultivation took place in the states of Shan, Kachin and Kayah, in particular in southern Shan state, where double-cropping, irrigation and fertilization resulted in high yields. Opium production in Myanmar in 2008 was estimated at 410 tons, below the level in 2007 (460 tons) but still significantly above the low levels reached in 2005 and 2006, which were the lowest reported since 1990.

24. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, opium poppy cultivation decreased from 26,800 ha in 1998 to 1,500 ha in 2007 and essentially remained stable in 2008 (1,600 ha). Opium production declined to 9.0 tons in 2007 and essentially remained stable at 9.6 tons in 2008. Opium poppy cultivation was confirmed in six of the country's provinces in 2008 but was concentrated in the provinces of Phongsaly and Houaphanh.

25. Although smaller quantities of heroin originating in Asia could be found in the consumer market of North America, illicit opiates in the Americas continued to be derived primarily from opium poppy cultivation within the same region. However, illicit opium poppy cultivation levels in the Americas were low in comparison with those in Asia.

26. Egypt eradicated 98 ha of opium poppy cultivation in 2007 and 121 ha in 2008 and reported that, in 2007 and 2008, opium poppy cultivation on its territory took place in the Sinai peninsula and Upper Egypt. According to Egyptian authorities, although the production of opium in Egypt had been reported, there was no recorded instance of the manufacture of heroin.⁸

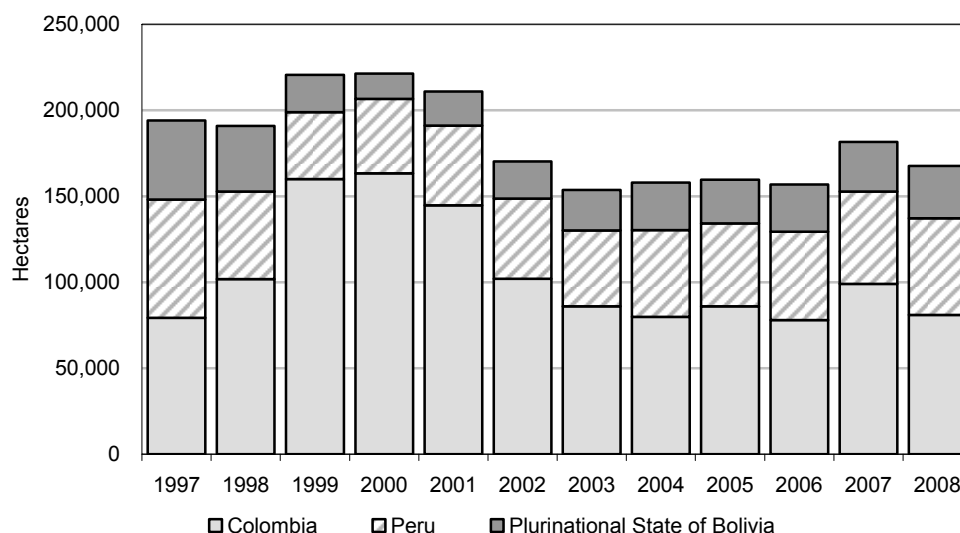
C. Coca

27. In 2008, coca bush cultivation remained concentrated in Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. From 2007 to 2008, the total area under coca bush cultivation in the three countries fell by 8 per cent, from 181,600 ha to 167,600 ha, while the estimated manufacture of cocaine fell more markedly, from 994 tons to 845 tons. The decline was due to the significant decreases in Colombia, which nevertheless accounted for approximately one half of the global cultivation of coca bush and potential manufacture of cocaine (see figure II).

28. The greatest change in the area under cultivation of coca bush and the manufacture of cocaine took place in Colombia, where the area under coca bush cultivation fell from 99,000 ha to 81,000 ha. A breakdown by region indicates that the largest area under cultivation in the country in 2008 was the Pacific region, where fresh coca leaf yield was thought to be low, followed by the central region. In 2008, coca bush cultivation in the regions of Meta-Guaviare, Putumayo-Caquetá and Orinoco fell significantly below the levels of 2006 and 2007. The estimates for fresh coca leaf production in Meta-Guaviare and, to a lesser extent, Putumayo-Caquetá were also revised following new information on coca leaf yield in the two regions. The estimated manufacture of cocaine in Colombia fell markedly, from 600 tons in 2007 to 430 tons in 2008.

⁸ Country report by Egypt to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Yamoussoukro from 8 to 12 September 2008.

Figure II
Coca bush cultivation in Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia,
1997-2008



29. In Peru, cultivation of coca bush rose gradually over the period 2005-2008, amounting to 56,100 ha in 2008,⁹ the highest level since 1997. The regions with the largest area under coca bush cultivation continued to be Alto Huallaga, Apurímac-Ene and La Convención-Lares, which together accounted for 85 per cent of the area under coca bush cultivation in 2008. The highest yields continued to be registered in Apurímac-Ene, which accounted for one half of the production of coca leaf. The estimated production of cocaine in Peru amounted to 302 tons in 2008, up from 290 tons in 2007.

30. The area under coca bush cultivation in the Plurinational State of Bolivia also continued to increase, rising from 28,900 ha in 2007 to 30,500 ha in 2008. The total for 2008 of 30,500 ha included 12,000 ha permitted under Law 1008¹⁰ for traditional uses. The increase in the area under cultivation was due to growth in two main areas: the Yungas of La Paz and the Tropics of Cochabamba. Potential manufacture of cocaine in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2008 was estimated at 113 tons, up from 104 tons in 2007.

31. In Colombia, the total area of eradicated coca bush remained largely unchanged, amounting to 229,611 ha in 2008 (compared with 219,939 ha in 2007). However, an increased portion of that total was destroyed manually (96,115 ha in 2008, up from 66,805 ha in 2007), with the remainder being eradicated by means of spraying. In Peru, the eradication of coca bush fell to 10,143 ha in 2008, from

⁹ This is the area estimated in the Peru coca cultivation survey for 2008, conducted jointly by the Government of Peru and UNODC. See United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Perú: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca* (June 2009). In its replies to the annual reports questionnaire for 2008, Peru reported a net area under cultivation (after eradication) of 43,556.88 ha and the eradication of 10,091.26 ha.

¹⁰ Ley del Régimen de la Coca y Sustancias Controladas, 1988, of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

12,072 ha in 2007.¹¹ That reduction may be partly due to the fact that eradication in 2008 was achieved exclusively through forced eradication operations,¹² in contrast with the situation in 2007, when voluntary eradication schemes accounted for 1,016 ha of the total. Eradication also fell in the Plurinational State of Bolivia from 6,269 ha in 2007 to 5,484 ha in 2008.

32. In 2007, more than 7,200 clandestine laboratories processing coca or coca derivatives were detected worldwide.¹³ Such laboratories continued to be concentrated in Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia also destroyed large numbers of coca maceration pits. Small numbers of laboratories were also reported by Spain (18 laboratories), Chile (5 laboratories), the United States of America (3 laboratories) and Ecuador, Mexico and South Africa (1 laboratory each).

III. Trends in illicit drug trafficking, up to 2007

33. The table below shows the reported quantities of seized drugs for selected drug types in 2006 and 2007. Seizures attributable to countries and territories in Africa are expressed both in terms of total weight and as a percentage of the global total for the corresponding drug type. Cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and methaqualone were the most prominent drug types trafficked in Africa in terms of the proportion of global seizures that took place in African countries. Seizures of cocaine amounted to less than 1 per cent of the global total, but that proportion does not reflect the amount of cocaine believed to be transiting the region.

Table
Drug seizures in Africa and worldwide, 2006 and 2007

| Drug type | Reported seizures for 2006 (kilograms) | | Percentage of world total for 2006 seized in Africa | Reported seizures for 2007 (kilograms) | | Percentage of world total for 2007 seized in Africa |
|----------------------|---|-----------|---|---|-----------|---|
| | Africa | World | | Africa | World | |
| Cannabis | | | | | | |
| Cannabis herb | 1 220 578 | 5 247 257 | 23.3 | 629 139 | 5 605 355 | 11.2 |
| Cannabis resin | 132 784 | 1 003 453 | 13.2 | 140 544 | 1 296 348 | 10.8 |
| Coca | | | | | | |
| Cocaine ^a | 845 ^b | 692 529 | 0.1 | 5 505 | 710 056 | 0.8 |
| Opiates | | | | | | |
| Opium ^c | 33 | 383 857 | 0.0 | 49 | 508 267 | 0.0 |
| Morphine | 37 | 46 391 | 0.1 | 0 | 27 366 | 0.0 |
| Heroin | 335 | 56 871 | 0.6 | 311 | 64 701 | 0.5 |

¹¹ As reported to UNODC by the Government of Peru and contained in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publication *Perú: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca*. In its replies to the annual reports questionnaire for 2008, Peru reported the eradication of 11,056.2 ha in 2007 and 10,091.26 ha in 2008. The total reported for 2007 consists of forced eradication only, while the total reported for 2008 is 0.5 per cent less than the corresponding published figure for 2008.

¹² *Perú: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca*.

¹³ That number includes laboratories manufacturing coca paste, coca base, cocaine hydrochloride and crack cocaine.

| Drug type | Reported seizures for 2006 (kilograms) | | Percentage of world total for 2006 seized in Africa | Reported seizures for 2007 (kilograms) | | Percentage of world total for 2007 seized in Africa |
|------------------------------------|---|--------|---|---|--------|---|
| | Africa | World | | Africa | World | |
| Amphetamine-type stimulants | | | | | | |
| Amphetamine | 1 | 18 766 | 0.0 | 5 | 23 634 | 0.0 |
| Methamphetamine | 1 | 18 824 | 0.0 | 13 | 18 211 | 0.1 |
| “Ecstasy” ^d | 27 | 4 897 | 0.6 | 6 | 7 948 | 0.1 |
| Non-specified | 833 | 8 248 | 10.1 | 702 | 1 802 | 39.0 |
| Depressants | | | | | | |
| Methaqualone | 773 | 5 294 | 14.6 | 93 | 111 | 83.1 |

^a Cocaine base and cocaine salts.

^b Excluding a single seizure of 14.2 tons reported by Nigeria, for which follow-up analysis did not confirm the presence of controlled substances.

^c Raw opium and prepared opium.

^d Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), 3,4-methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

A. Cannabis

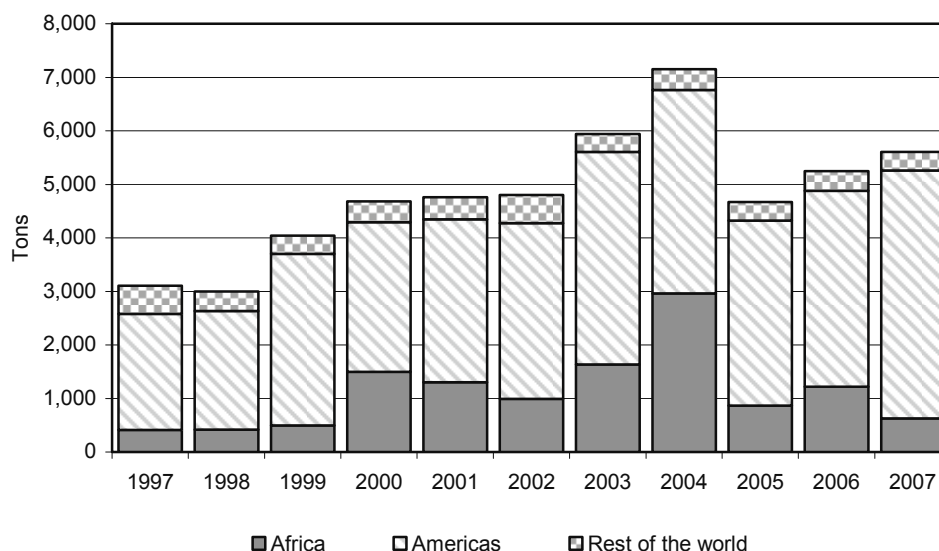
34. Cannabis derivatives remain the most widely trafficked drugs worldwide, accounting for approximately one half of global seizures. Of 143 countries and territories for which UNODC collated records of drug seizures in 2007, 132 had seized cannabis derivatives.¹⁴ In 2007, cannabis herb continued to be the most frequently seized drug in Africa, the Americas and Oceania, while cannabis resin was the most frequently seized drug in Europe, followed by cannabis herb.

1. Cannabis herb

35. Global cannabis herb seizures increased gradually over the period 2005-2007, while remaining significantly below the peak levels of 2004 (see figure III). The global total for cannabis herb seizures in 2007 amounted to 5,605 tons, only 7 per cent more than the level in 2006 (5,247 tons). In 2007, the Americas and Africa together continued to account for more than 90 per cent of global annual cannabis herb seizures.

¹⁴ Specifically, cannabis herb, cannabis resin and cannabis oil.

Figure III
Breakdown of cannabis herb seizures worldwide, 1997-2007



36. With the single exception of 2004, North America consistently accounted for more than half of global annual cannabis herb seizures over the period 2001-2007 and for almost two thirds of such seizures in 2007. Seizures in the subregion rose significantly, from 3,045 tons in 2006 to 3,624 tons in 2007. Starting in 2001, the largest and second largest national annual cannabis herb seizures worldwide were reported by two countries in North America: Mexico and the United States, respectively. Starting in 2005, cannabis herb seizures in each of the two countries were more than triple the amount seized by any other country.

37. Over the period 2005-2007, annual cannabis herb seizures in South America doubled, mainly owing to seizures in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. In 2007, seizures in South America amounted to 890 tons, the highest level since 1992 and representing 16 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures in 2007.

38. Cannabis herb seizures in Africa peaked at 2,960 tons in 2004, driving the corresponding rise in the global total, but seizures in Africa stayed significantly below that quantity throughout the period 2005-2007 (see figure III). In 2007, cannabis herb seizures in Africa fell by almost one half, from 1,221 tons in 2006 to 629 tons in 2007, the lowest level since 1999 and corresponding to 11 per cent of the global total for 2007.

39. The decline in seizures in Africa from 2006 to 2007 was mainly due to the portion attributable to the subregion of Southern Africa. A sharp decline was also registered in East Africa, but, given the paucity of data on East Africa for 2007, that decline was not statistically significant. Meanwhile, seizures increased sharply in North Africa and remained essentially stable in West and Central Africa.

40. Although cannabis herb continued to be trafficked throughout Africa, cannabis herb seizures were concentrated in a small number of countries. Over the period 2000-2007, UNODC collated records of cannabis herb seizures from 47 countries in Africa. However, seizures in seven countries (Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania) accounted for

90 per cent or more of the annual total for Africa each year from 2000 to 2007 and for 95 per cent of the entire quantity of cannabis herb seized in Africa in the entire period.

41. Nigeria reported cannabis herb seizures of 210 tons in 2007. That was essentially the same amount as in 2006 (192 tons) but was the largest quantity reported by an African country in 2007. Moreover, in the first six months of 2008, seizures in Nigeria amounted to 264 tons. Nigerian authorities also reported an increase in attempts at both the airports and border towns to smuggle cannabis out of the country, which was interpreted as an indication of demand outside the country.¹⁵

42. Cannabis herb seizures in South Africa were the highest in Africa in 2005 (292 tons) and 2006 (359 tons) but fell to 67 tons in 2007. South African authorities reported that large quantities of cannabis herb were smuggled to markets in Europe, while a portion fed the local consumer market in metropolitan areas in South Africa.¹⁶ Annual cannabis herb seizures in Malawi remained below 24 tons throughout the period 2001-2005, but rose sharply in 2006, reaching 272 tons.¹⁷ In 2007, seizures of cannabis herb in Malawi fell to 27 tons.¹⁸

43. In Morocco, a country historically linked with the trafficking of cannabis resin more than of cannabis herb, seizures of cannabis herb rose to 209 tons in 2007, more than four times the level in 2006 (46 tons), but still below the peak level of 2004 (319 tons). While Morocco was referred to as the point of origin of trafficked cannabis resin in the responses to the annual reports questionnaire submitted by 17 other countries for 2007, only two countries, Belgium and Estonia, mentioned Morocco as a point of origin of cannabis herb. Egypt reported seizures of 81 tons of cannabis herb (referred to as “bango”) in 2008, up from 48 tons in 2007.

44. The United Republic of Tanzania reported seizures of 70 tons of cannabis herb in 2008, the lowest level on record for that country since 2000 and less than one third of the level in 2006 (225 tons).¹⁹ Kenya reported seizures of 44 tons in 2007, the highest quantity on record for the country since 2002 and a marked increase over the annual average of 9 tons of seizures of cannabis herb in the period 2003-2005.²⁰

2. Cannabis resin

45. Following decreases in two consecutive years, global seizures of cannabis resin rose by 29 per cent, from 1,003 tons in 2006 to 1,296 tons in 2007. Cannabis resin seizures continued to be concentrated in the subregions of West and Central Europe, the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and North Africa. From

¹⁵ Country report by Nigeria to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

¹⁶ Country report by South Africa to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

¹⁷ The original reported quantity of 1,155 tons, as reported in the reply to the annual reports questionnaire for 2006 from Malawi, was revised upon consultation with the Malawian authorities.

¹⁸ Country report by Malawi to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

¹⁹ Data on seizures were not available for the United Republic of Tanzania for 2007.

²⁰ The replies to part III of the annual reports questionnaire for 2007 from Kenya were not available.

2006 to 2007, total seizures rose in all three of those subregions, with the largest increase reported in West and Central Europe.

46. From 1996 onwards, the subregion of West and Central Europe consistently accounted for more than half of annual global cannabis resin seizures. Seizures in the subregion rose by more than one third to 849 tons in 2007, from 610 tons in 2006. Over the period 1998-2007, Spain reported the largest annual cannabis resin seizures worldwide. Total annual seizures in Spain rose from 459 tons in 2006 to 654 tons in 2007. It is thought that cannabis resin continued to be smuggled into Spain from Morocco.

47. Cannabis resin seizures also rose significantly in the subregion of the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, from 220 tons in 2006 to 291 tons in 2007. While Pakistan continued to report the largest seizures of cannabis resin in the subregion (115 tons in 2006 and 110 tons in 2007), the increase in total seizures for the region was due mainly to seizures effected in Afghanistan, which were more than double the quantity in 2006 (from 37 tons in 2006 to 84 tons in 2007), and the Islamic Republic of Iran, where seizures rose by more than one half (from 59 tons in 2006 to 90 tons in 2007). Although seizure data for 2008 were incomplete in July 2009, it appears that the sharply increasing trend in Afghanistan continued in 2008, as several sources referred to a record single seizure of 236.8 tons of cannabis resin effected by Afghan authorities in 2008.²¹

48. Cannabis resin seizures in Africa rose gradually over the period 2004-2007, reaching 141 tons in 2007, the highest level since 2000. North Africa accounted for 90 per cent or more of the African total every year from 2001 to 2007, and accounted for nearly all African seizures in 2007. The amount of seizures in Morocco continued to be the largest among African countries, accounting for 84 per cent of total cannabis resin seizures in 2007 (see figure IV).

49. Cannabis resin seizures in Morocco rose by one third in 2007, reaching 118 tons, and remained at roughly that level in 2008, amounting to 114 tons. Morocco also reported that in 2008, as a result of the strengthening of the system of surveillance of the Mediterranean coast and the continued action of security services, the routes used to smuggle cannabis resin had shifted towards the Atlantic coast.

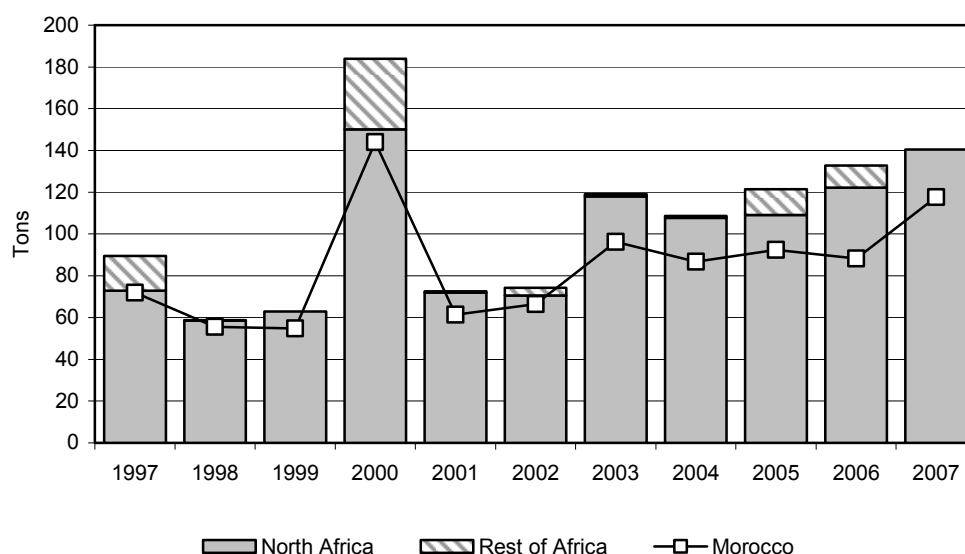
50. Cannabis resin seizures in Algeria rose to record levels, from 10.0 tons in 2006 to 16.6 tons in 2007. According to Algerian authorities, the country faced an increase in the transit of drugs, in particular cannabis.²² Egypt reported cannabis resin seizures of 12.8 tons in 2008, more than double the already high level of 5.6 tons in 2007. Annual cannabis resin seizures in Egypt had not exceeded 2 tons throughout the period 1997-2005. According to Egyptian authorities, West Africa and West Asia were the main sources of the cannabis resin present in Egypt.²³

²¹ Those sources included a press release of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime dated Friday, 13 June 2008.

²² Country report by Algeria to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

²³ Country report by Egypt to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

Figure IV
Cannabis resin seizures in Morocco, North Africa and Africa, 1997-2007



51. After Morocco, the largest amount of annual cannabis resin seizures reported by a single country in Africa in the period 1997-2007 was the 18.6 tons of cannabis resin seized by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 2006. Seizures in that country averaged 4.9 tons between 2000 and 2005.²⁴

52. No African country outside Northern Africa reported cannabis resin seizures in excess of 2 kg for 2007. However, significant seizures for 2006 were reported by Senegal (8.4 tons) and Niger (2.0 tons).²⁵

B. Opiates

53. Globally, trafficking in opiates continues along three major routes connecting three major production centres with three different markets. One route goes from Afghanistan, the world's largest opium producer, to South, South-West and Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The second route goes from Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to neighbouring countries in South-East Asia, notably China, as well as Oceania. A third route supplying the consumer market goes from Latin America to North America.

54. In 2007, most global seizures of opium and morphine continued to take place in the countries neighbouring Afghanistan.²⁶ Heroin seizures were less concentrated

²⁴ As of July 2009, the replies to the annual reports questionnaire for 2007 and 2008 from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were not available.

²⁵ As of July 2009, the replies to the annual reports questionnaire for 2007 and 2008 from the Niger and Senegal were not available.

²⁶ Unless otherwise specified, totals of seizures of opium refer to raw opium and prepared opium, but not opium seized in other forms such as capsules.

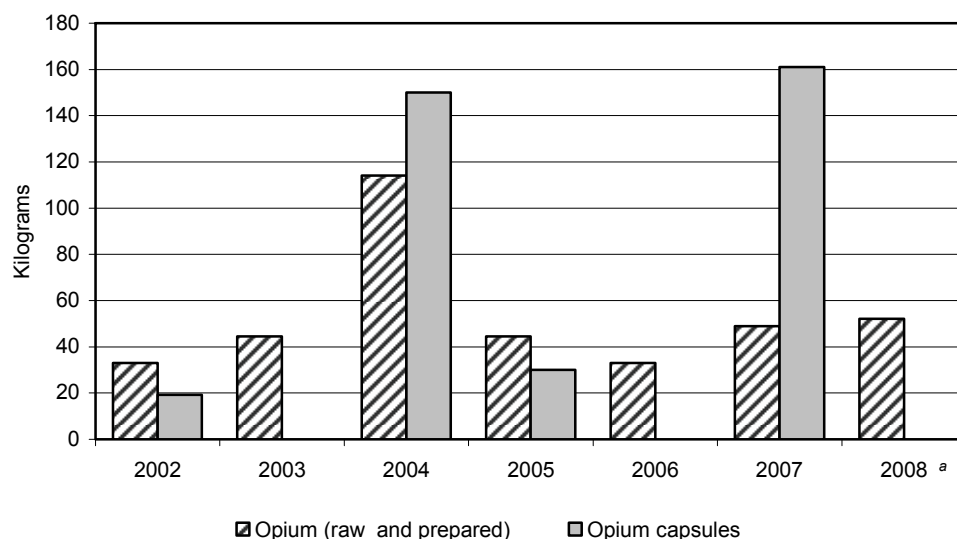
geographically. UNODC estimated the global interception rate²⁷ for opiates to be 19 per cent in 2007.²⁸

1. Opium

55. Global opium seizures rose steadily from 96 tons in 2002 to 508 tons in 2007, which represents a five-fold increase over a period of five years and an average year-on-year increase of 40 per cent for five consecutive years. Opium seizures in 2007 were concentrated in Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.²⁹ Since 2004, those two countries together have accounted for more than 90 per cent of annual global opium seizures.

56. Throughout the period 2000-2007, Egypt accounted for 97 per cent or more of annual opium (raw and prepared) seizures in Africa and was also the only country in Africa where opium was seized in capsule form. In 2007 in particular, Egypt seized 161 kg of opium capsules, and opium (raw and prepared) seizures amounted to 49 kg in 2007 and 52 kg in 2008 (see figure V). The only other country in Africa to report opium seizures throughout the period 2002-2007 was Algeria, which reported seizures of 15 kg of opium in 2008, as well as seizures of poppy plants and poppy seeds.

Figure V
Opium seizures in Egypt, 2002-2008



^a Data for opium capsule seizures in 2008 not available.

Source: replies of the Government of Egypt to the annual reports questionnaires.

²⁷ The global interception rate is the ratio of the quantity of opiates seized worldwide to the quantity of opiates produced worldwide in the same year. These quantities are expressed in terms of the equivalent quantity of heroin, assuming that 1 kg of heroin is equivalent to 1 kg of morphine and 10 kg of opium, except in the case of estimates of heroin production in Afghanistan, which are based on the Afghanistan opium surveys.

²⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2009*.

²⁹ Seizure statistics for 2007 in Afghanistan are based on data from the UNODC field office.

2. Morphine

57. Global morphine seizures fell by 41 per cent, from 46 tons in 2006 to 27 tons in 2007. For the fifth consecutive year, the largest and second largest amounts of morphine seizures worldwide were reported by Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively. The two countries together accounted for more than three quarters of global annual morphine seizures. The decline in global morphine seizures in 2007 was mainly due to a sharp drop in seizures reported by Pakistan.

58. Starting in 1990, seizures of morphine in Africa amounted to less than 0.1 per cent of the global total. In the period 2001-2007, annual seizures in excess of 2 kg were reported only sporadically by the United Republic of Tanzania (3 kg in 2001, 6 kg in 2003 and 37 kg in 2006).

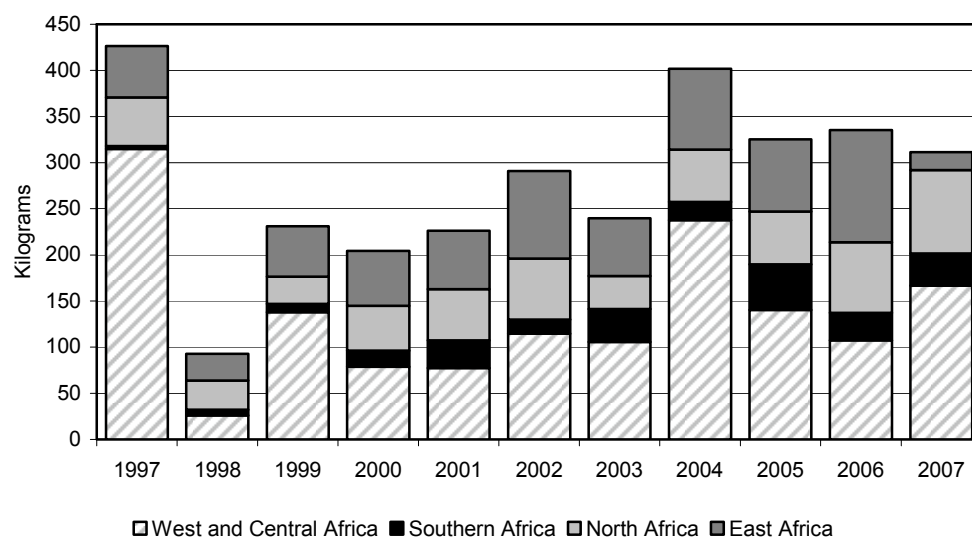
3. Heroin

59. Following two years in which the level of global heroin seizures remained stable, the quantity of heroin seized globally rose by 14 per cent, from 56.9 tons in 2006 to 64.7 tons in 2007. There were significant increases in the total quantities of heroin seized in the subregions of the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, South-East Europe, East Europe and North America, while a significant decline in heroin seizures was reported in the subregions of East and South-East Asia.

60. In 2007, heroin seizures in Africa remained below 1 per cent of the global total. However, the amount of heroin seized in 2007 was greater than the amount seized in 2006 in all subregions except East Africa. A sharp decrease in the total seized in East Africa kept the total for that subregion at 311 kg, roughly the same level as in 2006 (335 kg), but the decline in the total for East Africa is not statistically significant, due to the lack of available data for 2007 from countries of the subregion (see figure VI).

Figure VI

Heroin seizures in Africa, by subregion, 1997-2007



61. Heroin seizures in West and Central Africa rose from 108 kg in 2006 to 167 kg in 2007, accounting for more than half the total for Africa for 2007. The increase was mainly due to the sharp increase in seizures in Nigeria, from 33 kg in 2006 to 121 kg in 2007. Significant increases were also registered in Côte d'Ivoire (3 kg in 2006 and 33 kg in 2007) and Togo (1.4 kg in 2006 and 12.0 kg in 2007).³⁰

62. Although West African organized criminal groups continued to be prominent in trafficking various illicit drugs in several countries, it was unclear to what extent West Africa served as a transit area for heroin destined for the consumer markets outside Africa. The United States identified West Africa, specifically Nigeria, as a transit area for heroin smuggled into its territory in 2007, while Australia mentioned Nigeria and Benin as transit areas. In October 2007, Ghanaian authorities arrested two Afghans alleged to be conspiring to smuggling 100 kg of heroin into the country with the intention of smuggling it into the United States.³¹ Ghana reported that, in 2008, heroin trafficked in its territory originated in the United Arab Emirates, was transited through Ethiopia, destined for the United States. Togo reported that heroin seized in the country originated in Pakistan with the intended destination of France.

63. According to the Department of Justice of the United States, heroin from South-West Asia destined for the United States typically transited countries in West Africa, such as Nigeria and Ghana, or European countries.³² Moreover, West African criminal groups had recently attempted to expand distribution of South-West Asian heroin in some areas. However, limited amounts of heroin from South-West Asia were found in the United States.

64. Seizures of heroin in North Africa rose moderately, from 77 kg in 2006 to 90 kg in 2007. The largest seizures in the subregion continued to be reported by Egypt, which reported seizures of 88 kg in 2007 and more than double that amount in 2008 (211 kg), which was the largest amount reported seized in the country since 1988). That increase in seizures of heroin in North Africa continued the trend observed since the period 2003-2004. Algeria and Morocco reported the seizure of small quantities of heroin in 2007, and Algeria also reported heroin seizures for 2008.

65. Seizures of heroin also rose moderately in Southern Africa, from 30 kg in 2006 to 35 kg in 2007. The increase was mainly due to seizures in South Africa, which reported seizures of 28 kg in 2007, up from 23 kg in 2006. According to South African authorities, heroin continued to be smuggled into South Africa mainly from South-West Asia and, to a lesser extent, South-East Asia. The heroin was brought into South Africa mainly by couriers or through parcel post.³³

66. The only countries in East Africa reporting heroin seizures in 2007 were Kenya (13 kg) and Mauritius (6 kg). The United Republic of Tanzania reported seizures of 3.7 kg in 2008, significantly below the amounts reported by the country for years prior to 2007. Although seizures of heroin reported the annual reports questionnaires from countries in East Africa were limited, there were indications

³⁰ Country report by Côte d'Ivoire to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

³¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Transnational Trafficking and the Rule of Law in West Africa: a Threat Assessment* (July 2009).

³² National Drug Intelligence Center, United States Department of Justice, *National Drug Threat Assessment 2009* (December 2008).

³³ Country report by South Africa to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

that the subregion was gaining importance as a transit area for trafficked drugs, in particular heroin originating in Asia.

67. Zambia identified Ethiopia as a transit area used for some of the heroin (and cocaine) being trafficked in Zambia in 2007. Ethiopia was also referred to by Ghana as a transit area for heroin trafficked in Ghana in 2008. The United Republic of Tanzania reported significant changes in heroin trafficking patterns in 2008, with bulk consignments being smuggled into the country by sea and then being repacked and sent to China as well as Europe. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Mauritius identified Kenya as a transit area or point of origin for heroin trafficked in those countries in 2007. According to South African authorities, secondary routes were used to smuggle heroin overland into South Africa from Kenya, Mozambique and the Republic of Tanzania.

C. Cocaine

68. After a significant increase in the period 2002-2005, the level of global cocaine seizures remained stable for the second consecutive year. Global cocaine seizures amounted to 710 tons in 2007, compared with 693 tons in 2006. The greatest share of majority of cocaine seizures continued to be made in the Americas and Europe. The global interception rate³⁴ for cocaine in 2007 was estimated by UNODC to be 41 per cent.³⁵

69. Large quantities of cocaine continued to be trafficked from the Andean region, notably Colombia, to the North American market, in particular the United States. From 1980 onwards, the Americas accounted for more than four fifths of annual global cocaine seizures. From 1998 on, cocaine seizures in Colombia and the United States together amounted to more than half of the total cocaine seizures in the Americas. Moreover, in the period 2002-2007, cocaine seizure amounts in those two countries essentially followed the same trend.

70. In spite of the sustained high level of cocaine seizures in the Americas in 2007, a number of indicators suggested that the availability of cocaine on the consumer market of North America decreased in 2007 and 2008. According to data from the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States, the average purity of cocaine declined from 69.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2006 to 43.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2008. There was a corresponding increase in the price per gram of pure cocaine from \$89 to \$200 over the same time period.³⁶

71. Europe is the other major consumer market for cocaine. European countries, in particular the countries of West and Central Europe, continued to account for virtually all cocaine seizures occurring outside the Americas, with the total for

³⁴ That is, the ratio of the quantity of cocaine seized globally to the quantity manufactured globally.

³⁵ *World Drug Report 2009*. This calculation is based on an estimated global cocaine manufacture of 994 tons and total seizures of 710 tons, adjusted using an average purity of 58 per cent (derived from countries' replies to the annual reports questionnaire).

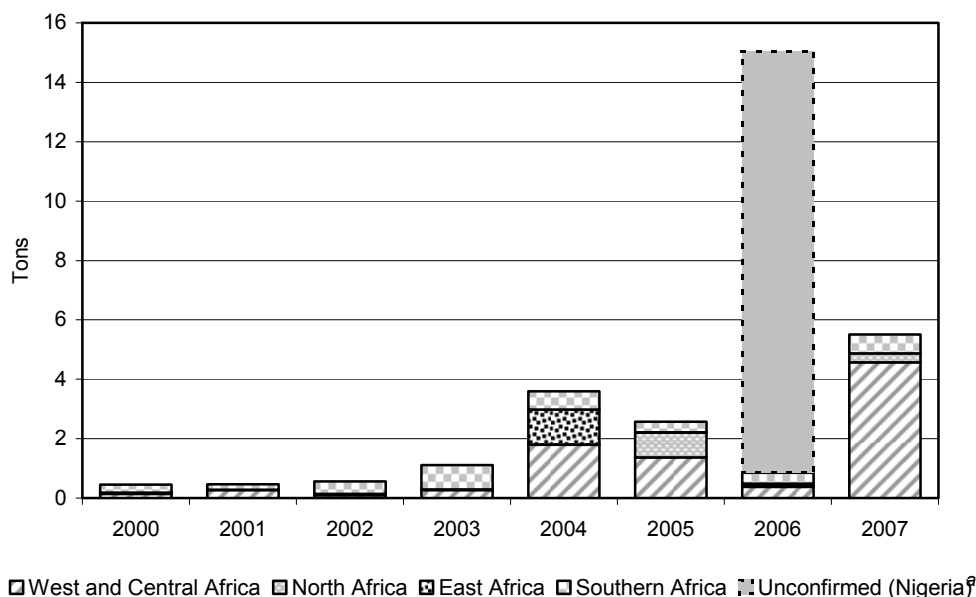
³⁶ Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States, *System To Retrieve Information on Drug Evidence (STRIDE)* (April 2009), cited in the presentation of the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy entitled "What can Europe learn from the United States experience of policy-related drugs monitoring?", given at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction conference "Identifying Europe's Information Needs for Effective Drug Policy", held in Lisbon on May 6-8, 2009.

Europe for 2007 amounting to 11 per cent of the global total. Total seizures of cocaine in Europe fell by 35 per cent, from 121 tons in 2006 to 79 tons in 2007. That decline followed an increase of two thirds between 2004 and 2006. The total amount of seizures in Europe in 2007 was comparable to the amount seized in 2004 (73 tons). With the single exception of the Netherlands, the six European countries reporting the largest cocaine seizures in 2006 all registered significant decreases in 2007.

72. The European market continued to be supplied by production in South America, either directly or via Africa. In the period 2002-2007, countries in West Africa in particular assumed an important role in the trafficking of cocaine to Europe. Cocaine seizures in Africa increased from 562 kg in 2002 (of which 98 kg were seized in West and Central Africa) to 5.5 tons in 2007 (of which 4.6 tons were seized in West and Central Africa) (see figure VII). In spite of the increases reported, it was likely that the amounts seized in West Africa represent only a small portion of the amount of cocaine transiting the region.

Figure VII

Cocaine seizures in Africa, by subregion, 2000-2007



^a For 2006, Nigeria reported cocaine seizures in excess of 14 tons. However, that included a single consignment of 14.2 tons that failed to be confirmed as containing controlled substances. Excluding that seizure, cocaine seizures in Africa in 2006 totalled 845 kg, of which 474 kg were seized in West and Central Africa.

73. According to UNODC records, in 2007 seizures of cocaine in Senegal (2,450 kg) accounted for 45 per cent of all cocaine seizures in Africa. Other countries in West and Central Africa reporting significant levels of cocaine seizures in 2007 were Cape Verde (500 kg),³⁷ Nigeria (394 kg, up from 235 kg in 2006),

³⁷ These figures are based on individual drug seizures reported to UNODC. The replies from Benin, Cape Verde and Senegal to part III of the annual reports questionnaire for 2007 were not available as of June 2009.

Benin (390 kg) and Guinea (391 kg).³⁸ In 2008, significant increases in cocaine seizures were registered by Ghana (from 283 kg in 2007 to 841 kg in 2008) and Togo (from 68 kg in 2007 to 393 kg in 2008). The other countries in West and Central Africa reporting cocaine seizures (in smaller quantities) in the period 2007-2008 were Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Mali.³⁹

74. Twelve European countries reported in their responses to the annual reports questionnaire for 2007 that in 2007 a total of 3,519 African nationals had been arrested as suspects of cocaine trafficking. Among those arrested, the most common nationalities were Moroccan (1,815 arrests), Nigerian (590 arrests), Tunisian (340 arrests), Cape Verdean (226 arrests), Algerian (201 arrests), Gambian (127 arrests), Senegalese (113 arrests) and Guinea-Bissau (50 arrests).

75. Some indicators suggested that in 2007 and 2008, patterns of cocaine trafficking activity in Africa were undergoing significant changes, possibly in response to intensified law enforcement efforts. According to the UNODC publication *Transnational Trafficking and the Rule of Law in West Africa: a Threat Assessment*, published in 2009, the proportion of cocaine couriers detected at European airports whose flight originated in West Africa peaked at 59 per cent in the second quarter of 2007 and had declined to less than 10 per cent in the last quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009. That trend is reflected in the data contained in the database of individual drug seizures maintained by UNODC. An analysis of cocaine consignments seized in Europe reveals that, among the seizure cases in which the point of origin was identified, the proportion of those cases in which African countries (or Africa as a whole) were named as the point of origin was negligible until 2002, climbed to 34 per cent by 2007 but fell to 24 per cent in 2008 (see figure VIII).

76. Further indications of a changing dynamic were to be found in the replies to the annual reports questionnaire submitted by some West African countries. The coast of the Bight of Benin was thought to be one of two major hubs serving as a point of entry of cocaine smuggled onto the African mainland, the other hub involving Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.⁴⁰ However, reports suggest the emerging use of land routes between the two hubs. Both Ghana and Togo reported that in 2008, new routes had developed by which cocaine entered their territory across borders with neighbouring countries. Togo identified Guinea as the origin of one of those routes, and Ghana identified Guinea and Senegal as points of origin. Togo estimated that 45 per cent of cocaine on its territory had been smuggled over land routes.

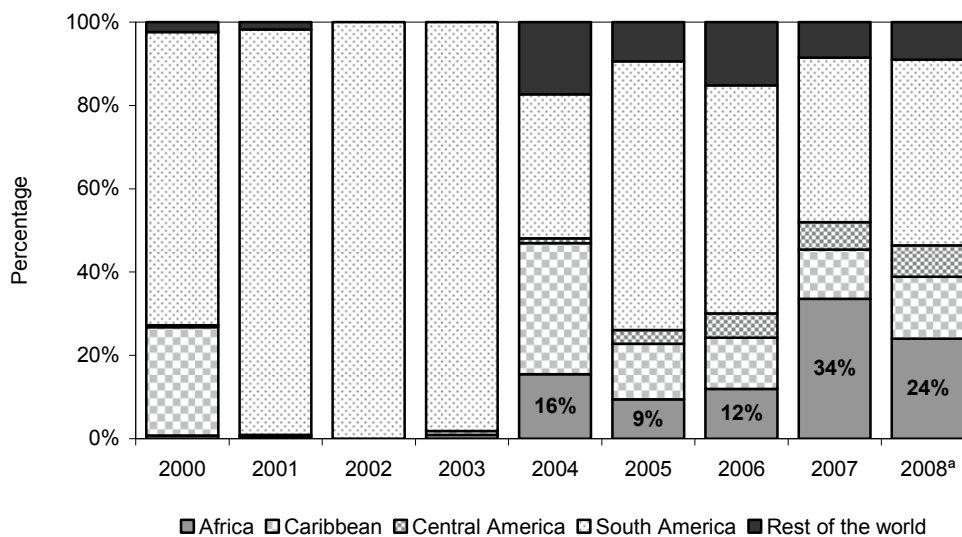
77. Togo also estimated that 20 per cent of the cocaine trafficked through its territory in 2008 was intended for Guinea-Bissau. This suggested that smuggling between the two hubs occurred in both directions, but it was not clear whether that situation was related to the emerging land routes. Ghana even referred to Kenya as a transit country for cocaine in 2007 and 2008.

³⁸ Country report by Guinea to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

³⁹ As of July 2009, several countries had not yet submitted their replies to part III of the annual reports questionnaire for 2008.

⁴⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat in West Africa* (November 2008).

Figure VIII
Geographical distribution of points of origin of cocaine consignments seized in Europe, 2000-2008



^a As of July 2009: further data for 2008 may become available.

78. In the subregion of Southern Africa, cocaine seizures almost doubled in 2007, rising from 363 kg in 2006 to 634 kg in 2007. That increase was mainly due to the amount of seizures in South Africa, which continued to account for more than 85 per cent of cocaine seizures in Southern Africa. In 2007, seizures in the country rose to 545 kg, compared with 360 kg in 2006. In 2007, significant quantities were also seized by Angola (56 kg) and Namibia (32 kg).

79. Cocaine seizures in the subregion of North Africa rose from 91 kg in 2006 to 303 kg in 2007. The increase was mainly driven by seizures in Morocco, which reported seizures of 249 kg in 2007, up from 54 kg in 2006. However, the amount of seizures in 2007 was still significantly below that in 2005, when seizures in Morocco sharply rose to 843 kg from an average of 5.5 kg during the period 2000-2004. Cocaine seizures in Algeria increased from 7.7 kg in 2006 to 22 kg in 2007. Seizures in Tunisia fell from 30 kg in 2006 to 23 kg in 2007, but that amount was still much higher than the annual seizures in the country prior to 2005.

80. Cocaine seizures in East Africa were negligible in 2007, and in 2006 had totalled 17 kg, of which 11 kg were seized by Kenya. Kenya also reported seizures of 19 kg of “crack” cocaine in 2007 and identified Nigeria as a transit area for cocaine smuggled into its territory in 2007, most of which was destined for Europe. Combined with reports from Ghana of drugs being trafficked via Kenya and Ethiopia, this information points to the possibility of parallel flows of illicit drugs between East and West Africa: cocaine originating in Latin America being smuggled from West Africa to East Africa, and heroin originating in Asia being smuggled from East Africa to West Africa.

81. Among individual cocaine seizures reported by European countries, Kenya was identified as the country of origin of the consignments in 14 cases occurring in the period 2006-2008, and the United Republic of Tanzania was cited once, in 2008.

Based on the UNODC database of individual drug seizures, prior to 2008 the United Republic of Tanzania had been cited as country of origin in only 2 cases in 2004, and Kenya had never been cited as country of origin prior to 2006.

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

82. The global market for amphetamine-type stimulants was arguably the most dynamic of the four major classes of illicit drugs. Significant increases in global seizures of amphetamine and of “ecstasy”-group substances were reported.⁴¹ Organized criminal groups also increased the size and sophistication of manufacturing operations. Manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants expanded to vulnerable countries in which it had not been known to occur previously. In Africa, the reports of large seizures of precursor chemicals made in Guinea on 15 July 2009 point to the possibility that amphetamine-type stimulants (as well as other drugs) are being manufactured in that country.⁴²

83. According to South African authorities,⁴³ South Africa had a significant consumer market for amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular methamphetamine and club drugs such as “ecstasy” and cathinone. Methamphetamine and cathinone were manufactured locally in clandestine laboratories, while “ecstasy” was mainly smuggled in from Europe by air freight and parcel post.

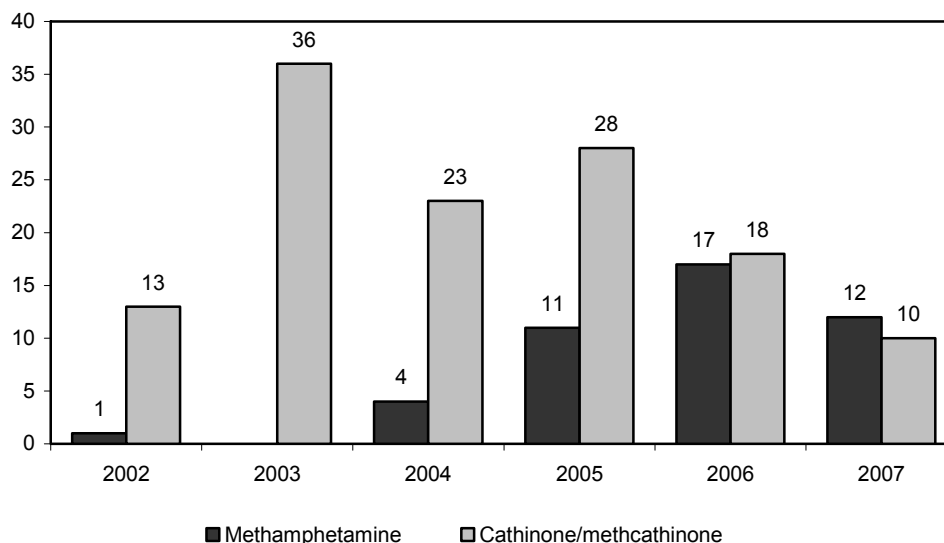
84. In 2007, South Africa dismantled 12 clandestine laboratories manufacturing methamphetamine and 10 laboratories manufacturing cathinone. South Africa reported that, although a greater number of methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled in 2006, the manufacture of methamphetamine was greatly increasing, an assessment that is corroborated by the long-term trend over the period 2003-2007 (see figure IX). South Africa also reported that the increase in the supply of methamphetamine had led to a decrease in price.

⁴¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants are seized in various forms, including liquid and tablet form, and may be reported by mass, volume, number of tablets or other units. In specific cases, seizure amounts may be reproduced as reported by countries, but aggregate quantities are expressed in terms of mass. For the purposes of the aggregation, one tablet is assumed to contain 30 mg of active ingredient, with the exception of “ecstasy” tablets, which are assumed to contain 100 mg of active ingredient. Moreover, one litre of liquid is assumed to correspond to one kilogram.

⁴² UNODC press release dated 7 August 2009.

⁴³ Country report by South Africa to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

Figure IX
Number of methamphetamine and cathinone/methcathinone laboratories seized in South Africa (all sizes), 2002-2007



1. Seizures of substances in the “ecstasy” group

85. Amphetamine-type stimulants are broadly divided into two groups: the “ecstasy” group and the amphetamine group. Global seizures of substances in the “ecstasy” group rose by 62 per cent, from 4.9 tons in 2006 to 7.9 tons in 2007. Seizures continued to be concentrated in Europe, Oceania, North America and East and South-East Asia, all of which reported significant increases between 2006 and 2007.

86. Although seizures of “ecstasy” in Africa fluctuated considerably in the period 2000-2007, Africa accounted for less than 1 per cent of the total quantity of “ecstasy” seized globally in that period. Contrary to the global trend, seizures in Africa fell sharply, from 27.5 kg in 2006 to 5.5 kg in 2007.

87. South Africa, which alone accounted for 97 per cent of the total quantity of “ecstasy” seized in Africa in the period 2000-2007, continued to report the largest “ecstasy” seizures among countries in Africa. Seizures in the country fell from 22.8 kg in 2006 to 5.1 kg in 2007. Egypt reported total seizures of 1 kg in 2006 and 410 grams in 2007. The only other country in Africa reporting “ecstasy” seizures in excess of 200 grams in 2006 or 2007 was Côte d’Ivoire, where seizures amounted to 3.5 kg in 2006.

2. Seizures of substances in the amphetamine group

88. Apart from “ecstasy”, the most widely trafficked substances in the category of amphetamine-type stimulants are amphetamine and methamphetamine. After appearing to stabilize in 2006, global seizures of amphetamine reached record levels, amounting to 23.6 tons in 2007 and returning to the increasing trend seen in the period 1998-2005. Seizures of amphetamine in the Near and Middle East/South-

West Asia continued to increase, reaching 14.8 tons in 2007, representing 63 per cent of the global total.

89. In 2007, global seizures of methamphetamine remained stable for the third consecutive year, amounting to 18.2 tons. Methamphetamine seizures were concentrated in East and South-Asia and in North America. East and South-East Asia continued to account for more than half of global methamphetamine seizures, while there was a moderate decline in North America.

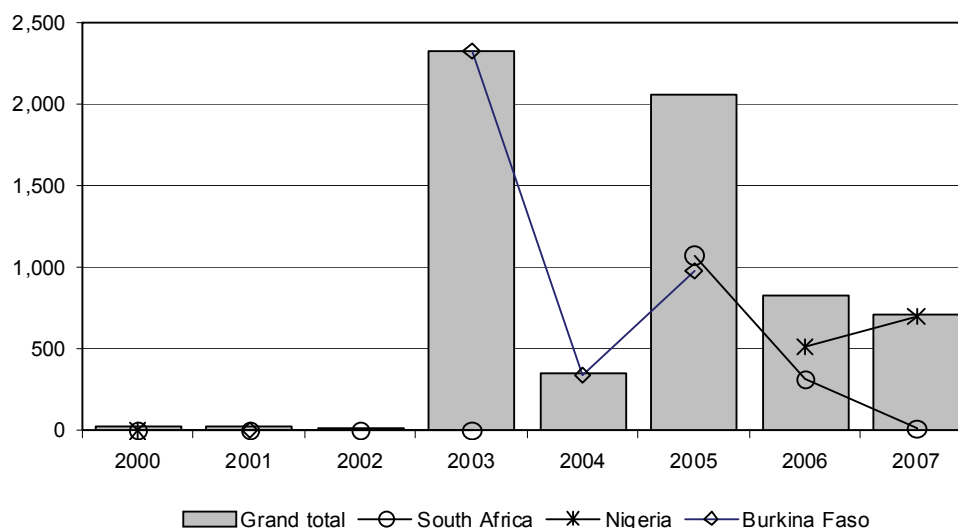
90. A significant proportion of seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in Africa are not reliably identified as amphetamine or methamphetamine and are therefore recorded as “unspecified amphetamines”. For that reason, a more useful representation of the scale of African seizures is obtained by aggregating amphetamine, methamphetamine and “unspecified amphetamines” seizure statistics in the “amphetamine group” than by analysing amphetamine and methamphetamine statistics separately.

91. Total seizures of substances in the amphetamine group in Africa fell from 835 kg in 2006 to 720 kg in 2007, which, as in previous years, represented slightly less than 2 per cent of the global total of amphetamine group seizures. Seizures in Africa first exceeded 30 kg in 2003, when they sharply rose to 2.3 tons, which remains the largest amount of seizures for a single year (see figure X).

92. For the second consecutive year, in 2007 African seizures of substances in the amphetamine group were concentrated in Nigeria and South Africa, with Nigeria reporting the largest amount of seizures in Africa and seizures in South Africa declining sharply. (see figure X). Seizures in Nigeria rose from 516 kg in 2006 to 700 kg in 2007. Those seizure amounts reflect a significant development, as Nigeria did not report any seizure of amphetamine-type stimulants in the period 2001-2005. Seizures in South Africa declined from 1.1 tons in 2005 to 315 kg in 2006 and to 18 kg in 2007.

Figure X

Seizures of stimulants in the amphetamine group, 2000-2007

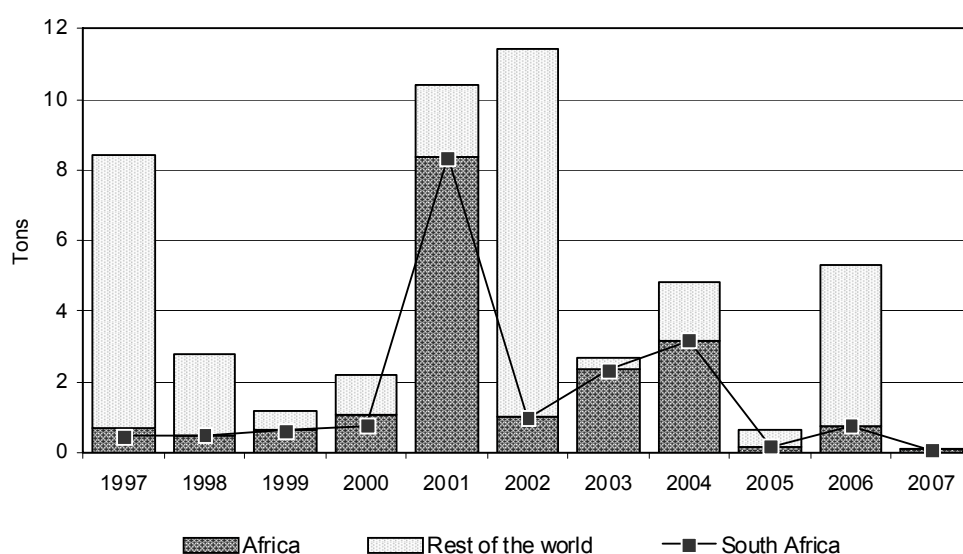


E. Other drugs

93. Global seizures of methaqualone continued to be concentrated in Africa and Asia. In the period 1997-2007, South Africa accounted for 97 per cent of African seizures of methaqualone, but in 2007 significant seizures were also reported by Kenya. In the 2005-2007, annual quantities of seizures in South Africa remained significantly below the peak reached in 2004, amounting to 772 kg in 2006 and falling sharply to 72 kg in 2007 (see figure XI). South Africa, which dismantled four methaqualone laboratories in 2007, estimated that 85 per cent of the methaqualone trafficked on its territory originated in China and 5 per cent in India, with the remaining 10 per cent originating in South Africa. Kenya reported seizures of methaqualone amounting to 20 kg in 2007. Kenya had dismantled one methaqualone laboratory.

Figure XI

Methaqualone seizures in South Africa, Africa and worldwide, 1997-2007



94. According to Egyptian authorities, Egypt was affected by a significant illicit consumer market for pharmaceutical drugs.⁴⁴ Some substances, mostly manufactured locally for therapeutic purposes, were abused, in particular substances in the Tramadol⁴⁵ group, including Contramal, Tramal, Parkinol, Apetryl and Somadril, as well as Tramadol itself. However, Egypt reported that, in 2007 and 2008, no clandestine laboratories had been detected in the country.

⁴⁴ Country report by Egypt to the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

⁴⁵ Tramadol is a synthetic opioid analgesic used for the treatment of moderate to severe pain.