Summary

The present report provides an overview of global trends in illicit drug production and trafficking with a focus on the Asia Pacific region (East and South-East Asia, South Asia and Oceania).

Cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan reached record levels in 2013 and cultivation in Myanmar also increased. Seizures of heroin in the Asia-Pacific region increased between 2010 and 2012. Three Andean States continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide, although cocaine seizures in most of the Asia-Pacific region remained limited in comparison with other regions. The global supply of Amphetamine Type Stimulants increased significantly in recent years and the Asia-Pacific region accounted for approximately one third of global methamphetamine seizures in 2012. Cultivation and production of cannabis continued to affect all regions of the world, including the Asia-Pacific region.
I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. This report provides an overview of recent trends to assist national authorities in their efforts to combat illicit drug production and trafficking, including at the subregional and regional levels. The report contains the latest developments in the production and trafficking of the main illicit drugs at a global and regional level, with a particular focus on East and South East Asia, South Asia, and Oceania. The term “Asia-Pacific” refers to all of these regions collectively.

2. The analysis in this report is based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The second section of the report covers the cultivation of illicit drug crops and the production of plant-based drugs. The third section presents statistics on seizures of cannabis, opiates, cocaine, and amphetamine-type stimulants with a specific focus on seizures in the Asia-Pacific region. The fourth section highlights activities undertaken by countries in the Asia-Pacific region to reduce the supply of illicit drugs and covers domestic activities, cross-border cooperation and international technical cooperation activities undertaken between 2010 and 2012.

3. The material contained in this report provides Member States with an overview of trends and emerging trafficking patterns to enhance coordination of actions at sub-regional and regional levels.

B. Sources of information

4. UNODC publishes illicit crop-monitoring surveys on the cultivation and production of plant-based drugs. These surveys include the Afghanistan opium survey, the South-East Asia opium survey and coca cultivation surveys in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. The section of this report titled ‘trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs’ draws on the latest available published information from these surveys.

5. Responses to questions contained in Part IV of the Annual Reports Questionnaire, submitted by Governments for 2012 and previous years, are the primary source of seizure statistics. Responses from countries in the Asia-Pacific region to the 2013 questionnaire have been included in the analysis, where available. One hundred Member States and territories, including 13 Member States1 and 2 territories2 in the Asia-Pacific region, responded to Part IV of the 2012 Annual Reports Questionnaires. At the time of writing,3 UNODC had received six responses from countries in the Asia-Pacific region4 to the 2013 survey. Supplementary sources of information include published official Government reports and reports from the UNODC Global SMART programme.

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1 Australia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Vanuatu.

2 Hong Kong and Macao (Special Administrative Regions of the People’s Republic of China.

3 July 2014.

4 Indonesia, China, Viet Nam, Japan, Philippines, New Zealand.
6. Country reports from the 2013 regional Meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA)\textsuperscript{5} are an important source of recent information. In addition to the statistics on seizures of illicit drugs, these reports often contain examples of law enforcement activities and provide insights from Member States regarding new and emerging trends.

7. The final section of this report provides a summary of the responses to questions related to supply reduction from part II (comprehensive approach to drug demand reduction and supply) of the Annual Reports Questionnaire for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

C. Data Limitations

8. Statistics on drug seizures offer valid, indirect indicators of trafficking trends. However, these statistics should be treated with caution, as they reflect different reporting practices and depend on the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities, which may vary between Member States and over time.

II. Trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs

A. Cannabis

9. Unlike other illicit crops, such as coca leaf and opium poppy, cannabis grows in varied environments and lends itself to diverse cultivation methods. That makes assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. Reports of cannabis cultivation show that a wide range of practices exist around the world. Cultivation occurs both indoors and outdoors, with States reporting that growers cultivated cannabis for personal consumption, farmers cultivated cannabis to supplement their income and large-scale, commercial operations existed as well. Several countries referred to cultivation of cannabis plant occurring on a large scale in rural areas. Once harvested, the cannabis is transported to urban areas, or smuggled to neighbouring countries, to meet demand. Generally, the distance between the location of production and the location of the end user is shorter for cannabis herb when compared to the other major types of illicit drugs. Indirect indicators, such as seizures of cannabis plant, suggest that illicit cultivation of cannabis plant and production of cannabis herb occurred in most countries worldwide.

10. Country reports provided by Member States at the previous HONLEA Asia-Pacific meeting\textsuperscript{6} show that cannabis cultivation occurs throughout the region and takes place in both indoor and outdoor locations. While local production meets the majority of the demand for cannabis, cannabis is also trafficked across international borders. Seizures of cannabis plants in the Asia-Pacific region confirm that cannabis is cultivated throughout the region.

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In 2012, Members States from East and South East Asia reported seizing nearly 160,000 cannabis plants and Member States in Oceania, seized more than 10,000 plants.

11. The 2012 survey of commercial cannabis cultivation and production in Afghanistan estimated the total area under cultivation in 2012 at 10,000 hectares (ha), a decline of 17 per cent compared with 2011. The decrease in cultivation was mainly due to lower levels of cannabis plant cultivation in Uruzgan Province, where the area under cultivation of cannabis plant decreased dramatically from more than 1,000 ha in 2011 to less than 100 ha in 2012. In the remaining 15 provinces surveyed, there were no major changes in cannabis plant cultivation in 2012. Due to higher per-hectare yields, the estimated potential production of cannabis resin in 2012 increased by 8 per cent, to 1,400 tons.

12. In its response to the 2012 annual reports questionnaire, Morocco estimated the net area under illicit cannabis plant cultivation (after eradication) at 47,000 ha, down slightly from the 47,500 ha reported in 2011. The authorities in Morocco reported that efforts to reduce the illicit cultivation of cannabis plant had continued and had resulted in a 65 per cent reduction in the surface area of cannabis farms in comparison with 2003. The authorities had eradicated 5,000 ha of cannabis in 2012 (down from 8,000 ha in 2011) and assessed that the total annual production of cannabis resin remained stable at 760 tons.

B. Opium

13. Two countries, Afghanistan and Myanmar, continued to account for the majority of the global illicit cultivation of opium poppy. In 2013, the total area under opium poppy cultivation worldwide increased to almost 300,000 hectares (see Figure I).

14. Afghanistan remains the main country where opium poppy is illicitly cultivated. According to the summary findings of the latest Afghanistan opium survey, opium poppy cultivation reached a record high in 2013; amounting to 209,000 ha and outstripping the earlier record of 193,000 ha in 2007. The increase in cultivation was generally confined to the main opium poppy growing areas in the southern and western regions of the country. Two provinces that had previously been declared free of illicit opium poppy cultivation lost that status in 2013. Illicit opium production in 2013 increased by 49 per cent from 2012 and amounted to 5,500 tons.
15. The link between insecurity and illicit cultivation of opium poppy continued to exist. The majority (89 per cent) of opium cultivation took place in nine provinces in the southern and western regions of Afghanistan, which are dominated by a state of insurgency and organized criminal networks.\(^7\) Cultivation increased by 34 per cent in Helmand Province, the principal opium poppy cultivating province in Afghanistan since 2004.

16. According to the latest Southeast Asia Opium Survey, illicit opium poppy cultivation covered more than 60,000 hectares in 2013. Despite a consistent downward trend in opium poppy cultivation from 2000-2006, opium poppy cultivation in the region has since increased at a relatively slow but steady pace.

17. Opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has steadily increased from 21,600 hectares in 2006, the year with the lowest level of cultivation, to 57,800 hectares in 2013. In Lao People’s Democratic Republic, cultivation has also increased from 1,500 hectares in 2007 to 6,800 hectares in 2012. Opium poppy cultivation in Thailand has remained stable at a very low level. Despite official reports of opium poppy eradication, opium poppy cultivation in the region has more than doubled since 2006.

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\(^7\) Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013: Summary findings, UNODC and Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, November 2013.
 authorities reported that the illicit cultivation of opium poppy occurs near to the border with Lao People’s Democratic Republic, in the boundaries between provinces and in remote areas where it is more difficult to identify and detect illicit activity.

19. India reported that no large-scale illicit cultivation of the opium poppy occurred in the country, but noted that some illicit cultivation is detected from time to time in remote mountainous regions in Northern, Eastern and North Eastern India. Law enforcement authorities regularly launch operations to destroy illicit crops.

C. Coca

20. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide. The total area under cultivation in these three countries decreased from 133,700 hectares in 2012 to 120,800 hectares in 2013. The illicit extraction of cocaine alkaloids from coca leaves, a first step in the manufacture of cocaine, is believed to take place exclusively in those three countries, which also accounted for the majority of cocaine hydrochloride manufactured worldwide.

21. The 2013 coca bush cultivation survey, conducted jointly by the Government of Colombia and UNODC shows that coca bush cultivation affected 23 of the 32 departments in Colombia. The area used for the cultivation of coca plants

in Colombia remained stable in 2013 compared to the previous year. While there were decreases in cultivation in several regions, increases in other regions offset these increases, leaving the total area under cultivation in the country stable at around 48,000 hectares. Despite the stable trend in 2013, the area under cultivation in Colombia has decreased significantly since 2000, when the area under cultivation stood at over 200,000 hectares. Between 2003 and 2013, alternative development programmes have benefited more than 156,000 households in 361 municipalities, promoting economic and social development in areas affected by illicit crops and within communities linked or at risk of being involved in this activity.

22. According to the 2013 national coca crop monitoring survey conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Peruvian Government, the area under cultivation at the end of 2013 stood at around 49,800 ha, down from the previous year’s total of 60,400 ha. Peruvian authorities eradicated over 23,900 ha of coca crops in 2013, with most of the efforts focused on the Palcazú-Pichis-Pachitea area and the Monzón valley, which have the highest rates of expansion in the area used for cultivation and which serve as key points for the production of illicit coca derivatives produced both locally and elsewhere. Other areas where eradication took place include Alto Huallaga.

23. According to the 2013 national coca monitoring survey in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, cultivation of coca bush decreased by around 9 per cent in 2013 to around 23,000 hectares, which is the lowest record level since 2002. Satellite images and ground surveys showed reductions in the two main areas of cultivation, Yungas de La Paz and Trópico de Cochabamba, which accounted for 99 per cent of the area under coca bush cultivation. These two areas recorded reductions of 7 and 12 per cent, respectively. Government-led eradication contributed to the reduction in cultivation.

III. Trends in illicit drug trafficking

24. Cannabis herb, methamphetamine and heroin are the most commonly seized illicit drugs by law enforcement in the Asia-Pacific region. In terms of seizures by weight, cannabis herb was the most seized drug in the region during 2012 (140 tons), followed by methamphetamine (36 tons), and heroin (11 tons).

25. Thirty-nine per cent of global “ecstasy” seizures, 31 per cent of global methamphetamine seizures and 16 per cent of global heroin seizures occurred in the Asia-Pacific region during 2012. The low percentage (0.38 per cent) of global cocaine seizures in the region is perhaps unsurprising given the distance from both the main production areas in South America and the main consumer markets in Europe and North America. Table I shows the reported quantities of seized drugs for the major drug groups in 2011 and 2012 both globally and in the Asia-Pacific region.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asia-Pacific (Kilograms)</td>
<td>Global Total (Kilograms)</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific (Kilograms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis herb</td>
<td>228 758</td>
<td>6 258 546</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>139 713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis resin</td>
<td>6 496</td>
<td>1 058 297</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>3 507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>2 817</td>
<td>633 837</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>2 527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opium</td>
<td>4 803</td>
<td>460 234</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>6 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit morphine</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>75 583</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>10 494</td>
<td>77 801</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>11 255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphetamine</td>
<td>2 308</td>
<td>30 985</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>28 626</td>
<td>89 225</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>35 573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Ecstasy”</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>3 591</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>1 939</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### A. Cannabis

#### Cannabis herb

26. Given the relative ease with which cannabis herb can be produced, demand is often met through local production, resulting in a pattern of trafficking flows tending to be rather localized in comparison with other plant-based illicit drugs. Cannabis herb continues to be consumed, trafficked and produced in most countries worldwide.

27. In 2012, the largest proportion of global cannabis herb seizures continued to occur in North America. Broken down by region cannabis herb seizures in North America accounted 62 per cent of annual global seizures, 19 per cent of seizures where made in Central and South America and the Caribbean, 8 per cent in Africa, 7 per cent in Europe, 3 per cent in Asia and less than 0.1 per cent in Oceania.

28. Between 2007 and 2011, the level of global cannabis herb seizures ranged from 5,628 tons to 6,775 tons per year. However, in 2012, global seizures of cannabis herb decreased to 5,061 tons. Annual global cannabis herb seizures in 2012 were 15 per cent below the amount seized in 2011 and 17 per cent below the average recorded over the previous five years. The decrease is primarily due to lower reported annual seizures in North America. North America accounted for, on average, 62 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures between 2002 and 2012.

29. The total weight of cannabis herb seizures in the United States of America decreased from 2,033 tons in 2011 to 1,772 tons in 2012. However, the number of seizure cases increased from 16,417 in 2011 to 18,968 in 2012. Authorities reported that cannabis herb availability appeared to be increasing owing to both sustained

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11 Includes coca paste/coca base, cocaine base, cocaine salts and crack.
levels of production outside the United States and increased cannabis cultivation within the United States.

30. In Mexico, cannabis herb seizures decreased by 39 per cent from 1,799 tons in 2011 to 1,297 tons in 2012. The decreasing trend continued in 2013, with seizures of cannabis herb in Mexico falling to 959 tons. Cannabis herb cultivation occurred in various parts of the country, concentrated in the northern states, where the plant is dried, packed and pressed for distribution. In 2012, authorities in Mexico estimated the final destination for 58 per cent of cannabis herb seized was Mexico while 32 per cent was destined for the United States. The primary method used to transport cannabis herb was by land using the road network, but it was also transported on a smaller scale by air and sea.

31. In 2012, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for 2.6 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures, slightly less than the 3.7 per cent reported in 2011. Figure III shows the relative amounts of cannabis herb seized by countries in the region. For the majority of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, cannabis herb seizures in 2012 were of a similar magnitude to the previous year. The exceptions were India and Viet Nam, where seizures decreased significantly from 2011 and Thailand where seizures increased significantly.

Figure III
Cannabis herb seizures in 2012, Asia-Pacific
(Kilograms)

32. Despite recording the largest annual cannabis herb seizures amongst countries in the Asia-Pacific region, seizures of cannabis herb in India decreased significantly from 123 tons in 2011 to 77 tons in 2012. The decreasing trend appeared to continue in the first eight months of 2013\(^\text{12}\) with seizures amounting to 45 tons. One of the

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larger seizures in 2012 involved the interception of 3,012 kilograms of cannabis herb, concealed in a truck which resulted in the arrest of five persons.\textsuperscript{13}

33. Seizures of dried cannabis herb in Thailand amounted to 24,374 kilograms in 2012, which represents the largest amount seized annually since 1993. In the first seven months\textsuperscript{14} of 2013, Thailand seized 17,812 kilograms of dried cannabis herb. According to authorities in Thailand,\textsuperscript{15} illicit drugs are trafficked through Thailand by both land and air routes.

34. Indonesia reported no significant changes in the methods of transportation or the origin, routes or final destinations of cannabis trafficking in 2012 and noted that air and sea remained the main modes of transportation. Seizures of cannabis herb in Indonesia remained stable in 2010, 2011 and 2012 with annual seizures ranging between 22 and 24 tons.

Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cannabis herb seizures in the Asia-Pacific region, 2008-2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Tons)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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Cannabis resin

35. In contrast with cannabis herb, the production of cannabis resin was concentrated in a small number of countries, among which the most prominent were Afghanistan and Morocco. Consequently, trafficking of cannabis resin followed flows that are more distinct. One of these flows is into Europe (mainly via Spain) from Morocco; the second is primarily from Afghanistan into and through neighbouring countries. In 2012, thirty countries seized over 1 ton of cannabis resin; fifteen of these countries were in Europe, and eight countries were in the Near and Middle East/South West Asia. In responses to the 2012 Annual Reports Questionnaire, 17 countries listed Morocco as a source for cannabis resin, while 10 countries listed Afghanistan.

36. Seizures of cannabis resin were concentrated in North Africa, the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and Western and Central Europe (primarily Spain). In total, 95 per cent of global cannabis resin seizures occurred in these three subregions. Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of global cannabis resin seizures in Western and Central Europe decreased, while the proportion of global cannabis resin seizures in North Africa and the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia increased.

\textsuperscript{13} Annual Report 2012, Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, India, page 8.
\textsuperscript{14} January 2013 to 9 August 2013.
37. In 2012, the largest annual seizure of cannabis resin occurred in Spain (356 tons). Spain seized more than 6 times the amount of cannabis resin than any other country in Europe and nearly 2.5 times more than Morocco. Spain has an important role in preventing cannabis resin from reaching other European countries due to the countries proximity to Morocco, a known source country for cannabis resin. Spanish authorities reported\(^{16}\) that in the past decade, the quantities of hashish seized have shown a decreasing trend and that the average prices have been increasing.

38. In 2012, over 99 per cent of the reported cannabis resin seizures in Africa occurred in Algeria, Morocco and Egypt. In recent years, Morocco has accounted for the majority of cannabis resin seizures among countries in North Africa. In 2012, however, the largest annual cannabis seizures in North Africa occurred in Algeria, where seizures tripled from 53 tons in 2011 to 157 tons in 2012. The increase appears to have continued into 2013, with the seizure of a further 62 tons in the first five months of 2013. Algeria attributed the significant increase in cannabis resin seizures to real-time exchange of intelligence among law enforcement agencies, tightened security and surveillance measures along the western borders of the country, the expansion and modernization of drug law enforcement agencies and training of personnel in techniques to combat drug trafficking.

39. In the Asia-Pacific region, cannabis users primarily use cannabis herb (marijuana). Cannabis resin (hashish) usage in the region is concentrated in South Asia and is relatively uncommon in East and South-East Asia and Oceania. Seizure statistics reflect these preferences. In 2012, India seized 3.4 tons of cannabis resin, which accounts for 97 per cent of all cannabis resin seizures in the Asia-Pacific region. India reported\(^{17}\) that Nepal was the source country for several individual seizure cases in 2012. Between 2002 and 2012, cannabis resin seizures in India have been relatively stable, ranging from between 3.0 and 5.2 tons each year.

B. Opiates

Opium

40. Global seizures of opium grew at a marked pace over the period 2002-2008 and peaked in 2009 at 653 tons. However, global opium seizures declined to 460 tons in 2011 before rising to 557 tons in 2012. Since 2004, three countries, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, accounted for over 90 per cent of worldwide opium seizures.

41. Based on the records of UNODC, the Islamic Republic of Iran has registered the highest annual total of opium seized by a single country worldwide every year since 1980. Over the period 2002-2009 in particular, seizures increased almost eightfold, climbing from 73 tons to 580 tons. In 2010, the increasing trend reversed, and opium seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran stabilized at around 400 tons per year. In 2012, the Islamic Republic of Iran seized 388 tons of opium, slightly higher than the 374 tons seized in 2011.


42. Opium seizures in Afghanistan increased between March 2011 and March 2013.\(^\text{18}\) The amount of opium seized from suspects accused of narcotics-related crimes increased to 72 tons during the year from March 2012 to March 2013, up from 61 tons in the same period for 2011/2012 and 45 tons in 2010/2011.

43. Seizures of opium in Pakistan increased from 23 tons in 2011 to 29 tons in 2012. Seizures also increased in India, from 2.3 tons in 2011 to 3.6 tons in 2012. Authorities in India reported\(^\text{19}\) that drug trafficking patterns and trends in 2012 included both illicit cultivation of opium poppy and suspected diversion of opium from licit cultivation within the country.

44. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region reported seizing 6.4 tons of opium in 2012, which accounted for slightly more than 1 per cent of global opium seizures. Figure IV shows the trend is Opium seizures between 2002 and 2012. Opium seizures in the Asia-Pacific region increased in 2012, due to increases in both South Asia and East and South East Asia. However, despite the latest increase, opium seizures are below the levels recorded in 2002-2003 and 2006-2007.

Figure IV
Opium seizures in the Asia-Pacific region (2002-2012)
(Kilograms)

Illicit morphine

45. As is the case with opium, seizures of morphine continued to be concentrated in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries: every year from 2005 onwards, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan together accounted for more than 90 per cent of global morphine seizures.

46. In the Asia-Pacific Region, India was the only country to report significant annual seizures of illicit morphine in 2012. India seized 263 kilograms in 2012, up from 53 kilograms in 2011. In 2012, Australia, India, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand and Singapore reported small annual seizures of illicit morphine


\(^{19}\) Narcotics Control Bureau of India, Annual Report 2012.
through the Annual Reports Questionnaire, which in each case amounted to less than 1 kilogram.

**Heroin**

47. Global seizures of heroin increased significantly between 2002 and 2010. In 2002, global heroin seizures amounted to 49 tons; by 2010, annual global heroin seizures had increased to 78 tons and remained at this level in 2011. In 2012, the increasing trend reversed and global heroin seizures decreased by 8 per cent to 71 tons.

48. A significant decrease in seizures reported by countries of the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia was part of the reason behind the decrease in global heroin seizures. Seizures by the Islamic Republic of Iran dropped in 2012. That decrease, however, was somewhat offset by an increase in seizures in Pakistan. Seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran decreased from 23 tons in 2011 to 10 tons in 2012,20 while seizures in Pakistan increased from 7.7 tons in 2011 to 12.7 tons in 2012. Pakistan reported21 that the country was a major transit route for opiates and estimated that up to 40 per cent of the heroin produced in Afghanistan transited through Pakistan.

Figure V  
**Global heroin seizures, by region 2002-2012**  
(Kilograms)

49. After decreasing between 2004 and 2008, heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific region generally followed an increasing trend between 2009 and 2012 (see figure V). Heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific region reached 11.3 tons in 2012, up from 10.5 tons in 2011. Seizures in the region went against the global trend and increased when global seizures of heroin decreased.

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20 Islamic Republic of Iran, Drug Control Headquarters, “Drug control in the Islamic Republic of Iran 2012”.

50. In 2012, China continued to account for the majority of heroin seizures in the region and has essentially set the trend in recent years. China seized 7.3 tons of heroin in 2012, up from 7.1 tons in 2011. Authorities from China reported that Northern Myanmar remained the main source of heroin and that heroin from Afghanistan remained a threat. Authorities also noted that 121,835 drug-related criminal cases were uncovered in 2012, among which 43,411 related to heroin, an increase of 6.3 per cent compared with the previous year.

51. In Australia, heroin seizures amounted to 1.1 tons in 2012. According to the Australian response to the 2012 Annual Reports Questionnaire, the proportion of recent heroin users and the availability of heroin in Australia have remained stable over the past few years and South-East Asia and South-West Asia remain the key source regions of heroin seized at the Australian border. Seizures of heroin trafficked via mail accounted for the highest number of seizure cases since 2005, while heroin trafficked via sea cargo accounted for the majority of seizures by weight.

52. India is located between the two principle regions of opium cultivation in South-West and South-East Asia. In 2012, India continued to account for the majority of heroin seizures in South Asia with heroin seizures of just over 1 ton. India reported that between 35 and 45 per cent of the heroin seized had originated from South West Asia and noted that heroin trafficked through the region is destined for Europe, the United States of America and South-East Asia.

C. Cocaine

53. The main consumer markets for cocaine in the world, namely North America and Western and Central Europe, continued to be supplied by cocaine originating in South America, notably the Andean region. Cocaine from the Andean region is trafficked northwards to North America and across the Atlantic to Europe via the Caribbean or Africa. Global cocaine seizures increased in 2012, but were within 10 per cent of seizures made in the previous year.

54. Seizures in South America increased from 362 tons in 2011 to 419 tons in 2012. Colombia continued to report the largest amount of cocaine seized by a single country. Seizures of cocaine base and cocaine salts in Colombia increased from 200 tons in 2011 to 243 tons in 2012. Authorities in Colombia reported that maritime operations were the most successful and provided an example of an operation in the Pacific Ocean, which resulted in the seizure of 9 tons of cocaine.

55. In North America, seizures of cocaine decreased in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Throughout 2012, there was a significant decrease for cocaine entering Canada compared with previous years. Air cargo, postal services and passenger luggage coming from the Caribbean and Central and South America into

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Canada were the main forms of transportation used to traffic cocaine, while three marine shipping containers accounted for the rest. Authorities in Mexico reported that cocaine continued to be trafficked by sea. Maritime trafficking accounted for the highest volume of drugs seized. Trafficking by land, however, continued to account for the greatest number of interdiction operations. In the United States, authorities reported a decrease in seizures at the south-west border. Price and purity data also indicated a decreased availability of cocaine in the United States during 2012.

56. Cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe peaked at 121 tons in 2006 then declined for three years before stabilizing at around 60 tons. In 2012, seizures of cocaine in Western Europe increased to 71 tons. Cocaine seizures decreased in France, Germany and Italy, while seizures increased in Spain. Spain seized a total of 21 tons in 2012, representing an increase of 25 per cent over 2011.

57. A secondary route for cocaine trafficked across the Atlantic to Europe involved the use of countries in Africa, notably West Africa, as transit countries. In 2012, the total amount of cocaine seized by West African countries remained at a similar level to the previous two years.

58. In most of the Asia-Pacific region the availability of cocaine remained limited when compared with other drugs and other regions. Opiates and amphetamine-type stimulants generally pose a much greater threat to drug control authorities in the region. However, seizure data shows that cocaine traffickers continue to target specific parts of the region with cocaine seizures in Australia and Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) accounting for the majority seizures in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Figure VI
Cocaine seizures, Asia-Pacific, 2002-2012
(Kilograms)
59. Australian authorities reported\textsuperscript{25} that the Australian Federal Police seized 966 kilograms of cocaine from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, an increase of 170 kilograms or 21.4 per cent over the previous year. Colombia continues to be the most prominent source country for cocaine seized at the Australia border. Regular embarkation points for cocaine destined for Australia include Ecuador, Panama, the United States, Colombia and Canada. Authorities reported that the estimated street value of a kilogram of cocaine is between $175,000 to $225,000 US dollars.

60. In Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China), authorities reported\textsuperscript{26} that despite some significant seizures in the territory, the supply of cocaine remained stable. Authorities also observed that transnational drug trafficking syndicates were looking to expand the cocaine market into the region to take advantage of the relatively high levels of economic growth in the region relative to the traditional cocaine markets of North America and Europe.

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

61. Amphetamine-type stimulants can be broadly classified into two types: the amphetamines group (which includes amphetamine and methamphetamine) and the “ecstasy” group. Unlike seizure data of plant-based drugs, the collection of quality amphetamine-type stimulants seizures data relies heavily upon the proper identification and classification of seized controlled substances.

**Amphetamine**

62. Annual global amphetamine seizures have remained relatively stable between 2005 and 2012, ranging from 19 to 33 tons per year (see figure VII). Captagon tablet seizures registered in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia continued to account for the majority of global amphetamine seizures.

63. Seizures of amphetamine in the Asia-Pacific region amounted to 158 kilograms in 2012 and were concentrated in Oceania where Australia seized 102 kilograms and New Zealand seized 13 kilograms of amphetamine. Authorities from Australia reported\textsuperscript{27} that continued large-scale precursor detections and seizures, as well as increasing clandestine laboratory detections indicated that the amphetamine-type stimulants market (excluding MDMA) appeared to be predominately supplied by domestic production. In addition to domestic production of amphetamine-type stimulants, both the number and weight of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border also increased.


\textsuperscript{27} ARQ 2012 for Australia, Part IV — Attachment 4.1.
Between 2008 and 2012, the global market for methamphetamine expanded significantly. After relatively stable levels of seizures during the period 2001-2007 (ranging from 19 to 28 tons), the annual amount of methamphetamine seized globally increased to 114 tons in 2012 (see figure VII). In 2012, seizures increased in both North America and East and South-East Asia.

The Government of Mexico has identified methamphetamine production both in the west of the country (in Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Michoacán and Nayarit) and in the north-west (Sinaloa and Sonora). Mexico seized a total of 31.55 tons of methamphetamine in 2012, 2 per cent more than the quantity seized in 2011 (30.86 tons). Authorities dismantled 270 illicit drug laboratories in 2012, 96 per cent of which were used for preparation of methamphetamine. Many of the laboratories also contained controlled chemical precursors. The latest Annual Reports Questionnaire data from Mexico shows that the increasing trend in methamphetamine seizures may have ended. In 2013, seizures of methamphetamine in Mexico decreased by 56 per cent when compared with seizures in 2012.

Seizures of methamphetamine by the United States increased significantly, with seizures of crystallized methamphetamine reaching 20 tons in 2012 (up from 9.7 tons in 2011). Authorities reported that methamphetamine availability was probably increasing and law enforcement and intelligence reporting, as well as price and purity data, indicated that methamphetamine prices continued to decline while purity levels had increased.

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67. East and South-East Asia has some of the largest and most established markets for amphetamine-type stimulants in the world.\textsuperscript{29} In 2012, methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia continued at record levels. Seizures increased in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Figure VIII
\textbf{Amphetamine-type stimulants seizures, Asia-Pacific region 2002-2012}
(Kilograms)

68. In China, seizures of methamphetamine increased from 14.3 tons in 2011 to 16.2 tons in 2012. China reported\textsuperscript{30} the manufacture of methamphetamine tablets in northern Myanmar remained very active and assessed that more than 90 per cent of methamphetamine tablets in the Chinese market originated from this area. Domestic production of methamphetamine also occurred in the country. In 2012, there were 205 crystal methamphetamine cases, with 228 clandestine laboratories dismantled and 1,237 kg of crystal methamphetamine seized.

69. In 2012, annual seizures of methamphetamine in Thailand increased for the fifth consecutive year and exceeded 10 tons (10.2 tons) for the first time since 2000. Authorities reported\textsuperscript{31} that methamphetamine is abused in both tablet form (known locally as Yaba) and in crystalline form. Methamphetamine is the most common drug trafficked into Thailand for use within the country. In tablet form, methamphetamine is mainly trafficked by land, while crystalline methamphetamine is mainly trafficked by land and air.

70. In the 2012 Annual Reports Questionnaire, Australia reported increases in the number of clandestine laboratories detected and the organization and sophistication

\textsuperscript{29} UNODC, “Global SMART Update”, vol. 10, September 2013.
of the individuals involved in methamphetamine production. In the most populated state of New South Wales, domestic manufacture accounted for the majority of the methamphetamine market. However, despite record levels of domestic manufacture, methamphetamine detections at the border also increased in 2012. Authorities reported that criminal groups involved in the production of methamphetamine are attempting to establish and build networks outside of Australia to source precursor chemicals.

71. New Zealand reported high levels of prevalence and use of imported and domestically manufactured methamphetamine. The volume of methamphetamine seized in New Zealand during 2013 increased by 148 per cent in comparison to 2012.

“Ecstasy”-type substances

72. According to a recent report from the UNODC Global SMART Programme, in many regions of the world, a large proportion of seized pills marketed as “ecstasy” contain substances other than MDMA and the trend of selling New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) as “ecstasy” has been observed by countries in Oceania and South-East Asia.

73. In 2012, “ecstasy” seizures in the Asia-Pacific region amounted to the equivalent of 1,939 kilograms, which is the highest level recorded in the region since 2007 when seizures amounted to 6,391 kilograms. Indonesia accounted for the majority (79 per cent) of seizures in the region in 2012. The number of pills seized by Indonesia increased nearly fourfold from 1.1 million in 2011 to 4.3 million in 2012.

Table III
Seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in selected countries
(kilograms or equivalents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>1,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Supply reduction activities: Asia-Pacific

Analysis of Part II of the Annual Reports Questionnaire (2010-2012)

74. This section provides a brief summary of the responses from countries in the Asia-Pacific region to questions related to supply reduction in Part II of the Annual Reports Questionnaire. Part II of the questionnaire is titled “Comprehensive approach to drug demand reduction and supply” and approximately half of Part II is

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32 UNODC, Global SMART Programme, Global Synthetic Drug Assessment, 2014.
33 Countries in the Asia-Pacific region with “ecstasy” seizures equivalent to over 100 kilograms in 2012.
devoted to questions related to reducing the supply of illicit drugs. Questions 16 to 37 of the questionnaire ask about domestic supply reduction activities, cross-border and international cooperation, international technical cooperation, and the control of precursors.

75. UNODC first used the current set of survey questions in the 2010 Annual Reports Questionnaire. Ninety-three countries completed Part II of the questionnaire in 2010 and 2011, and ninety-one countries completed Part II in 2012.

76. The analysis is based on a combination of the responses to the 2010, 2011 and 2012 survey, rather than a comparison across the three years. Between 2010 and 2012, eighteen countries in the Asia-Pacific region completed Part II of the Annual Reports Questionnaire in at least one year and ten countries completed part II in all three years.

Activities at the national level

77. States in the region were asked about activities undertaken to reduce the supply of illicit drugs. Between 2010 and 2012, 89 per cent of responding countries reported that they had monitored precursor chemicals, 72 per cent that they had undertaken programmes for the eradication of illicit drug crops, 61 per cent — the monitoring of amphetamine-type stimulants and illicit substances, and 56 per cent — the use of forensic intelligence. Eight of the 18 countries (44 per cent) reported undertaking research and evaluation activities, while five countries (28 per cent) reported that alternative development activities took place.

78. Table IV compares supply reduction activities undertaken by countries in the Asia-Pacific region with global supply reduction activities. The table shows that, with the exception of forensic intelligence and research and evaluation, a greater percentage of countries in the Asia-Pacific undertake supply reduction activities when compared with the level of supply reduction activities undertaken worldwide. Most notably, a greater proportion of countries in the Asia-Pacific region undertake Programmes for the eradication of illicit drug crops, when compared to the percentage of countries globally (72 per cent compared with 52 per cent).

34 In cases where a Member State has responded in two or three of the years between 2010 and 2012, the latest response has been used for the analysis.
35 Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.
36 Percentages are based on the number of “yes” responses divided by the total number of responding countries (18).
Table IV
Supply reduction activities in the Asia-Pacific region (2012, or latest available year)
(Percentage of responding Member States answering “Yes”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply reduction activity</th>
<th>Asia-Pacific (n=18)</th>
<th>Global (n=112)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring of amphetamine-type stimulants and illicit substances</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmes for the eradication of illicit drug crops</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control/monitoring of precursor chemicals</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic intelligence</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and evaluation</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative development</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

79. In the majority of responding countries within the region, the police, customs or a specialized drug enforcement agency had a mandate to reduce drug supply. Half of the responding countries in the Asia-Pacific region reported that the military had a mandate to reduce drug supply, very similar to the global level of 48 per cent.

80. Sixty-seven per cent of responding countries reported the use of informants as an investigative technique. Sixty-one per cent of countries reported using undercover techniques and controlled delivery, while 44 per cent reported using electronic surveillance.

81. In many parts of the world, the security and safety of the authorities tasked with undertaking supply reduction activities remains a concern. In 2012, twelve Member States, including three in the Asia-Pacific region, reported that personnel from the judiciary or law enforcement had lost their lives or gone missing in action in the fight against drugs.

Cross-border and international cooperation

82. The data suggests a well-established culture of cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the region with sixteen out of the eighteen responding Member States (89 per cent) reporting having exchanged information with law enforcement in different countries. However, opportunities to further enhance international cooperation in the region exist. Two thirds (67 per cent) of responding Member States in the Asia-Pacific region undertook joint operations and just over half (56 per cent) exchanged liaison officers. Several of the countries who undertook joint operations noted that the joint operations resulted in significant seizures of narcotic drugs.

83. Most responding countries did not identify problems or barriers to cooperation. For the countries that did identify problems, slow formal procedures and the lack of a common language for communication were the two most common issues.

International technical cooperation

84. Sixty-seven per cent of responding countries (12 countries) reported receiving technical assistance in the area of drug supply reduction either from another country or from an international organization. Training, data sharing and the provision of
equipment were the common forms of assistance. All the 12 countries that reported receiving assistance noted that they had received assistance in the form of training, ten countries received assistance in the form of data sharing and eight countries reported that they had received equipment. The least common forms of assistance received were financial assistance (six countries) and software (four countries).

V. Conclusions

85. The cultivation and production of cannabis continued to affect all regions of the world, including the Asia-Pacific region. In 2012, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for 2.6 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures, slightly less than the amount reported in 2011. Cannabis resin (hashish) usage in the region is concentrated in South Asia and is relatively uncommon in East and South-East Asia and Oceania. Seizure statistics reflect these trends.

86. Illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan remains the primary source of opiates and cultivation in the country reached record levels in 2013. In addition, cultivation in Myanmar, while still low in comparison with historical levels, has increased each year since 2006, registering a further increase in 2013. In 2012, seizures of heroin in the Asia-Pacific region went against the global trend and increased when global seizures of heroin decreased. Heroin continues to be trafficked into the Asia-Pacific region from both Myanmar and South-West Asia.

87. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush in the world. The total area under cultivation in these three countries decreased in 2013. Although cocaine seizures in the Asia-Pacific region remained limited in comparison with global totals, cocaine traffickers continue to target specific parts of the region with cocaine seizures in Australia and Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) accounting for the majority seizures in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

88. The manufacture, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants continued to affect the Asia-Pacific region, which accounted for approximately one third of global methamphetamine seizures in 2012. Several Member States in Asia-Pacific region reported an increase number of clandestine laboratory detections in 2012. At the same time, authorities have reported an increase in the trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor chemicals used in the production of amphetamine-type stimulants.