

## Fact Sheet – Bolivia Coca Cultivation Monitoring Report, 2023

Variables	Source	2022	2023	% Change 2022-2023
<b>Area under coca bush cultivation<sup>1</sup></b>				
Area under coca cultivation in Bolivia (rounded to hundred)	UNODC	29,900* ha	31,000* ha	+4%
Area under coca cultivation in the region of the Yungas of La Paz	UNODC	18,150** ha	18,439 ha	+2%
Area under coca cultivation in the region of Tropics of Cochabamba <sup>2</sup>	UNODC	11,388** ha	12,125 ha	+6%
Area under coca cultivation in the region of the North of La Paz	UNODC	404** ha	486 ha	+20%
Permitted coca production area in Authorized Zones <sup>3</sup>	Plurinational State of Bolivia (Law 906)	22,000 ha	22,000 ha	-
<b>Potential production of sun-dried coca leaf<sup>4</sup></b>				
Yungas of La Paz	UNODC	20,600* – 23,700* mt	21,000* – 24,100* mt	+2%
Tropics of Cochabamba	UNODC	23,300* – 31,500* mt	24,800* – 33,500* mt	+6%
North of La Paz	UNODC	420* – 510* mt	500* – 610* mt	+20%
Total production of sun-dried coca leaf in Bolivia	UNODC	44,400* – 55,700* mt	46,300* – 58,200* mt	+4%
<b>Trading, prices and seizures of coca leaf and controlled substances</b>				
Coca leaf traded in authorized markets in Bolivia	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN)	24,762 mt	24,702 mt	-0.2%
National nominal weighted average price of coca leaf in authorized markets <sup>5</sup>	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN)	6.6 USD/kg	8.9 USD/kg	+35%
Estimated value of coca leaf in Bolivia <sup>6</sup>	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN) – UNODC	US \$ 229 – 279 Million	US \$ 349 – 431 Million	+52% ~ +54%
Value of coca leaf production in percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) <sup>7</sup>	INE – UNODC	0.5 – 0,6%	0.8 – 1%	+60% ~ +67%
Value of coca leaf production in percent of the value of the agricultural sector	INE – UNODC	4.2 – 5.1%	5.7 – 7.1%	+36% ~ +39%
Coca leaf seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	331 mt	372 mt	+13%
Cocaine base seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	10,125 kg	11,591 kg	+14%
Cocaine hydrochloride seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	10,213 kg	21,345 kg	+109%
Coca cultivation rationalization/eradication in Bolivia	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGPROCOCA-CEO)	10,260 ha	10,302 ha	+0.4%

\*Figures rounded

\*\*For comparative purposes, referential municipal borders provided by the Vice-Ministry of Social Defense and Controlled Substances (VDSSC) were used.

<sup>1</sup> Area affected by coca cultivation at the end of 2023, quantified based on the visual interpretation of satellite images of very high resolution.

<sup>2</sup> This includes the coca-producing zones of Ichilo province in the department of Santa Cruz and of Moxos province in the department of Beni.

<sup>3</sup> Since 2017, the area under coca cultivation in Authorized Zones has been regulated by the General Coca Law (Law 906, promulgated in March 2017), limited to 22,000 ha.

<sup>4</sup> The sum of the regional figures to calculate the national result and percentage change was done with unrounded figures, but the figures shown in this summary of results are rounded to the hundreds and tens, respectively. In the other hand, a single percentage change was placed for the potential production ranges for the lower and upper limits.

<sup>5</sup> The national nominal weighted average price of coca leaf, based on estimates from the two authorized markets is represented in US dollars (USD). For this calculation the official exchange rate of the Central Bank of Bolivia was used: 6.96 Bs., as of 12/31/2023.

<sup>6</sup> Figures calculated assuming the trading of the estimated potential production of coca leaf (lower and upper limits) using the nominal prices from the authorized coca leaf markets in Bolivia.

<sup>7</sup> Value calculated from the country's GDP and the agricultural sector 2022 and 2023 (INE, <https://www.ine.gov.bo/index.php/estadisticas-economicas/pib-y-cuentas-nacionales/producto-interno-bruto-anual/serie-historica-del-producto-interno-bruto/>), for this summary of results the percentages of change were calculated using the percentage amount for the lower and upper limits unrounded.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 Coca Crop Monitoring Report is the 21th report published by UNODC. This document provides quantitative information on the extent of coca cultivation and potential coca leaf production in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Furthermore, this report also presents complementary information from state institutions about trade and price of coca leaf, rationalization/eradication of coca crops, and other related topics.

The monitoring results for 2023 show a 4% of increase in the area under coca bush cultivation compared to 2022, with an estimated area of 31,000 ha<sup>8</sup> of coca crops. Of the total, 59% of the area cultivated with coca is in the Yungas of La Paz region, likewise, 39% is in the Tropic of Cochabamba and 2% in the North of La Paz.

In 2023, the Yungas of La Paz region showed an increase in area under coca crops equivalent to 2%; the North of La Paz region also registered an increase of 20%. Likewise, the Tropic of Cochabamba region showed an increase of 6%.

Coca cultivation in the Protected Areas reported an increase of 148 ha that represents 34% to 2023.

The UNODC has reported 31,000 ha of coca crops in Bolivia following a methodology adjusted and approved by Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ICMP) based in Vienna, to maintain the historical comparability of the whole monitoring series. The UNODC methodology establishes parameters for interpretation of coca crops taking into account visible elements on a satellite image and the working scale.

The area of satellite images acquired for 2023 monitoring was 11,820 km<sup>2</sup> which represents a decrease of 23%, compared with the area reported in 2022, mainly due to adverse weather conditions and a large percentage of cloud cover in the monitoring regions during the acquisition period.

The data on rationalization/eradication, trade, prices, seizures of the coca leaf and controlled substances are provided to UNODC as official information reported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia corresponding to the period January – December 2023.

The volume of coca leaf traded in authorized markets reached 24,702 mt, representing a decrease of 0.2% compared to 2022. The final destinations of the coca leaf traded were 38% to the department of Santa Cruz; 17% to Tarija, 13% to Potosi, 12% to Cochabamba and the remaining 20% was distributed in the other departments.

The average price of the coca leaf sold registered an increase of 33% in the authorized market of La Paz, reaching 9.3 USD/kg; and an increase of 71% in the authorized market of Cochabamba, reaching 6.0 USD/kg.

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<sup>8</sup> Figures rounded to the nearest hundred

According with the information reported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2023, efforts to control surplus coca crops continued, through rationalization tasks in Authorized Zones and eradication in Non-Authorized Zones, in accordance with the established of the General Coca Law, Law 906. In 2023, a total rationalized/eradicated area of 10,302 ha was reported at the national level, which represents an increase of 0.4% compared to 2022 (10,260 ha).

Of the total of rationalization/eradication area reported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC validated 45% of it, through accompanying R/E tasks and analyzing the information provided by the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

The potential production of sun-dried coca leaf in Bolivia was estimated in a range of 46,300 mt for the lower limit and 58,200 mt for the upper limit, which represents an increase of 4% respectively compared to 2022 and an estimated value between 349 – 431 million US dollars<sup>9</sup>. These data are calculated based on the information provided by the EPB, with performance factors prior to 2010<sup>10</sup>.

Compared to 2022, the total seizure of coca leaf increased by 13%, reaching 372 mt in 2023. On the other hand, the seizure of cocaine base increased by 14% (11.6 mt) and the seizure of cocaine hydrochloride increased by 109% (21.3 mt). Likewise, the seizure of solid chemical substances decreased by 18% (608,410 kg), while liquid substances increased by 57% (801,180 liters)<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> *Estimated values assuming that all the coca leaf produced is sold in the authorized markets according to the average prices for each market.*

<sup>10</sup> *For this report, non-statistical limits have been established based on studies carried out in 1993 by the DEA, 2005 by the UNODC and 2010 by CONALTID.*

<sup>11</sup> *UNODC, by validating information on the destruction of seized illegal drugs, accompanies national authorities in the fulfillment of their legal duties. The information contained in this report corresponds only to the information reported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia.*