

Illegal traffic of hazardous and other wastes in the Caribbean Region

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training
and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean

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MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY



The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean

The BCRC-Caribbean has **14** Contracting Member Parties in the Caribbean region. These are:

1. Antigua and Barbuda,
2. The Commonwealth of the Bahamas,
3. Barbados,
4. Belize,
5. The Republic of Cuba,
6. The Commonwealth of Dominica,
7. The Dominican Republic,
8. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana,
9. Jamaica,
10. The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis,
11. Saint Lucia,
12. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,
13. The Republic of Suriname, and
14. The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.





Illegal Traffic in the Caribbean Region

The Component Authority (CA) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Process

- ❖ Successful transfers and movement of hazardous and other waste within the Region
- ❖ The CAs are generally efficient in the response to Notification Documents
- ❖ Requests to import hazardous waste into countries of the Region is notably less than those for export or transshipment through the Caribbean states
- ❖ The PIC process is observed mostly where there is enforced national legislation or policy in the State of Import or the State of Exports
- ❖ Limited applications from interested parties may be due to the lack of capacity to prepare the requisite documents and difficulty in identifying appropriate waste disposal facilities abroad.



Illegal Traffic in the Caribbean Region

National/Domestic Legal Framework

- ❖ There is a general lack of specific national legislation to enforce the Basel Convention
- ❖ This hinders the CA from preventing and punishing violations
- ❖ The authorities are guided by alternative legislation under which the movement of hazardous materials may be flagged
- ❖ There is a recognised lack of technical capacity and human resources to support the needed on-going collaboration for these arrangements to be effective.



Illegal Traffic in the Caribbean Region

Customs and Enforcement Authorities

- ❖ Primary responsibility for detection lies with the Customs officials, as the first point of contact (entry and exit)
- ❖ Limited capacity and institutional knowledge for detection of hazardous waste or illegal traffic in most enforcement agencies
- ❖ Inter-agency collaboration is often required in order to investigate the traffic of materials suspected to be hazardous
- ❖ Customs departments also face challenges with the appropriate storage and disposal of seized hazardous waste.



Illegal Traffic in the Caribbean Region

Waste Management Industry

- ❖ Recent upsurge in the industry surrounding waste recyclers, processors and brokers
- ❖ Insufficient monitoring of the collectors, processors and recyclers
- ❖ Most operations are not regulated by national legislation and regulatory bodies rely on limited alternate regulations
- ❖ Most regional operations actually focus on dismantling and shipping abroad for disposal or decontamination and recycling. As such, they become a concern for illegal trafficking



The Prevention of Illegal Traffic in The Caribbean (Ongoing National Initiatives)

- ❖ Saint Lucia - Solid Waste Management Authority - update of the database of national recyclers/processors and the development of a national program to engage and continuously monitor these operations
- ❖ Trinidad and Tobago - the relevant enforcement agencies are looking at the development of local legislation to support the implementation and enforcement of the BRS Conventions
- ❖ Belize - National Policy is to not import any waste. Proposals to import hazardous waste are denied. Also, the DoE is pursuing the enactment of the Integrated Chemicals Management Bill. In-house capacity building and the Mobile Interdiction Team (MIT) is also supporting the control of illegal trafficking
- ❖ SKN and ANU - BAN Amendment ratifications



The Prevention of Illegal Traffic in the Caribbean (Ongoing Regional Initiatives – BCRC-Caribbean)

GEF 5558 Regional Project on Persistent Organic Pollutants

- ❖ Activity 1.1 - The POPs Inventories provides current insight into the presence of and movement of these hazardous substances
- ❖ Under Activity 1.2 - a legislative gap and barrier analysis and the development of Standard Operating Procedures for inspectors involved in taking custody and scientific testing and analysis of samples of various chemical substances,
- ❖ Under Activity 1.2 - Training needs assessments and five (5) thematic areas for training - include the training of customs and enforcement agencies on the detection of POPs.



The Prevention of Illegal Traffic in the Caribbean (Ongoing Regional Initiatives – BCRC-Caribbean)

The provisional legislative guidance and regional waste management and disposal options under other projects are expected to address the issues surrounding the illegal traffic of hazardous and other waste in the region

- ❖ **Mercury Storage and Disposal** - Addresses the development of management systems to safely store and dispose of Mercury, Mercury contaminated materials and Mercury wastes (Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and Suriname)
- ❖ **Minamata Initial Assessments** - The legislative reviews recommend the approach to the effective management of Mercury and to inform decision making regarding the adoption of the Minamata Convention.
- ❖ **Waste Oil Management System** - includes, a small-scale pilot plant with the potential to upscale to a commercial waste oil re-refining plant. There is also the view to mirror this project in other countries to address the ongoing issues with the ESM of waste oil.



The Prevention of Illegal Traffic in the Caribbean (Ongoing Regional Initiatives – BCRC-Caribbean)

- ❖ Training programme geared towards the development of Customs and other key enforcement officers in MEA implementation, including capacity development in the chemicals and wastes conventions
- ❖ WEEE-Caribbean strategy – Sub-regional project on WEEE Management in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Institute of Waste Management of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna (BOKU)
- ❖ Waste Pneumatic Tyre recovery, shredding and recycling project for the Eastern Caribbean island
- ❖ UNEP Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening
- ❖ Continuous engagement of waste management and recycling private sector



The Prevention Of Illegal Traffic In The Caribbean (Regional Needs And Recommendations)

- ❖ Regional workshop for regional convention focal points, legal experts and enforcement authorities with a focus on implementation of the conventions and illegal traffic of hazardous wastes

- ❖ Regional capacity building on:
 - Guidance on the implementation of the BC provisions dealing with illegal traffic
 - BC Training Manual on Illegal Traffic for Customs and Enforcement Agencies

Thank you!

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