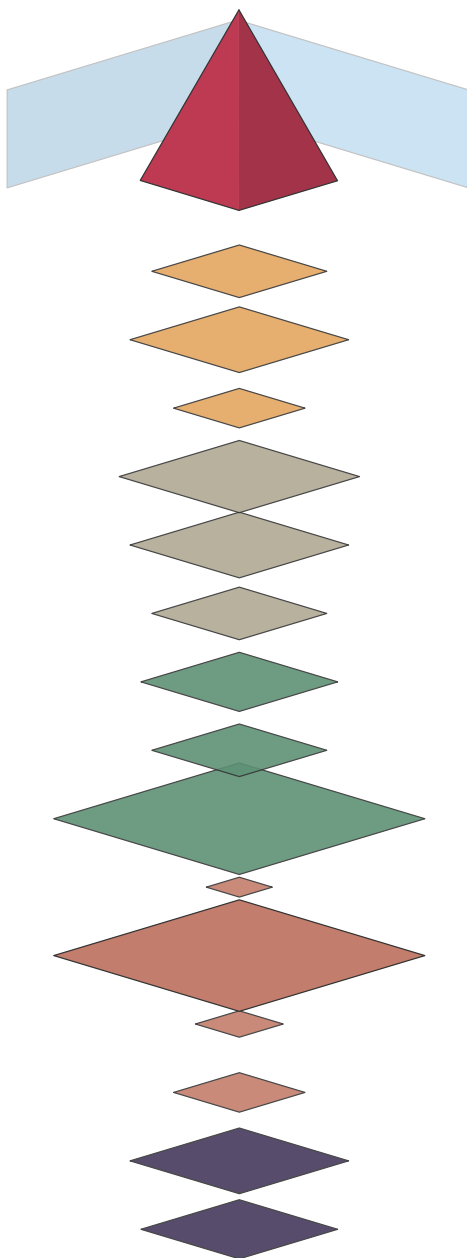




SURINAME



4.77

CRIMINALITY SCORE

115th of 193 countries
24th of 35 American countries
11th of 12 South American countries



CRIMINAL MARKETS

4.53

HUMAN TRAFFICKING	4.00
HUMAN SMUGGLING	5.00
EXTORTION & PROTECTION RACKETEERING	3.00
ARMS TRAFFICKING	5.50
TRADE IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS	5.00
ILLICIT TRADE IN EXCISABLE GOODS	4.00
FLORA CRIMES	4.50
FAUNA CRIMES	4.00
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE CRIMES	8.50
HEROIN TRADE	1.50
COCAINE TRADE	8.50
CANNABIS TRADE	2.00
SYNTHETIC DRUG TRADE	3.00
CYBER-DEPENDENT CRIMES	5.00
FINANCIAL CRIMES	4.50



CRIMINAL ACTORS

5.00

MAFIA-STYLE GROUPS	3.00
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	5.00
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	7.50
FOREIGN ACTORS	5.50
PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS	4.00



3.04

RESILIENCE SCORE



Funding provided by the United States Government.

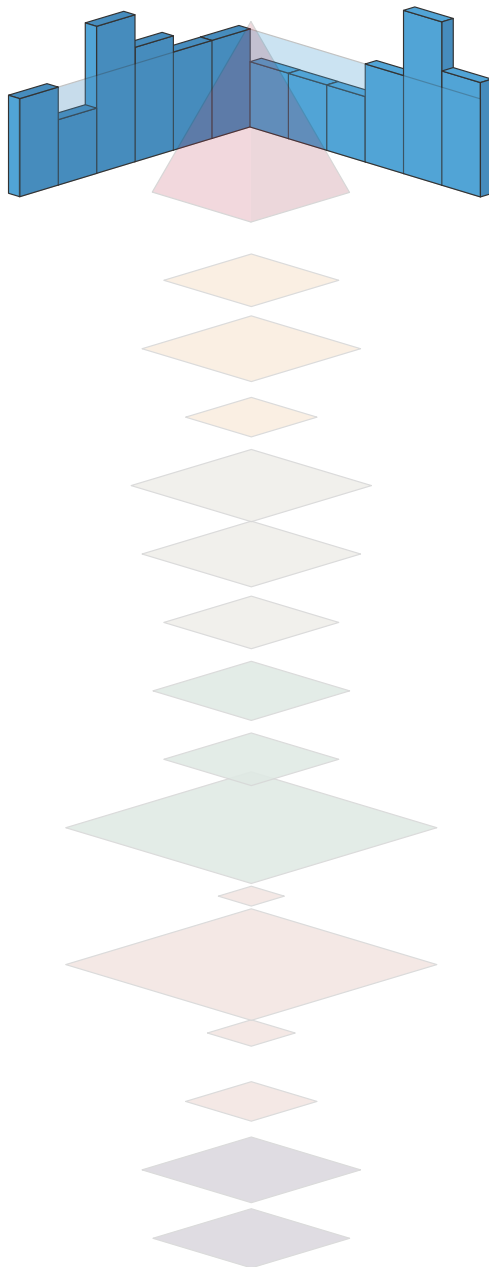


Funded by the European Union

ENACT is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Institute for Security Studies and INTERPOL, in affiliation with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.



SURINAME



3.04

RESILIENCE SCORE

170th of 193 countries

32nd of 35 American countries

11th of 12 South American countries

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	3.00
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	2.00
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	4.50
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	3.50
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	3.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT	3.00
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	2.00
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	2.00
ECONOMIC REGULATORY CAPACITY	2.00
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	3.00
PREVENTION	5.00
NON-STATE ACTORS	3.50



4.77

CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL MARKETS 4.53



CRIMINAL ACTORS 5.00



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CRIMINALITY

CRIMINAL MARKETS

PEOPLE

Suriname serves as both a transit and destination point for human trafficking. Foreign women and girls are most vulnerable to sex trafficking, while men and boys are more susceptible to exploitation in agriculture, construction, coastal fishing boats and gold mines. There is an increasing influx of people from the Caribbean, Brazil, Haiti and Venezuela, who are at risk of falling victim to this crime. Child labour, especially in small-scale gold mines, is a particular concern in Suriname. Some children are trafficked to informal mining camps, where they are also subjected to commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking networks are believed to be international, working through local, small, mafia-style ethnic groups. Chinese- and Hong Kong-based groups are trafficking workers to Suriname for forced labour in gold mines and service-based professions.

Suriname is also both a transit and destination country for human smuggling, with weak immigration policies, gold and timber mining, and inadequate labour conditions contributing to the issue. Although human smuggling from China previously accounted for the largest numbers, there has been an increase in Haitian-smuggled individuals who find their way to Europe or the US via Suriname. The boom in Suriname's construction sector, associated with Chinese investment, has largely faded, and many Chinese workers have left the country. However, the human smuggling market in Suriname may be larger than indicated due to the country's remote and dense jungle regions, and due to limited government presence or oversight. Moreover, the human smuggling market is often intertwined with the human trafficking market, with undocumented individuals being more vulnerable to traffickers who promise employment. There are suggestions that officials facilitate criminal groups involved in human smuggling. There have been few cases of extortion related to organized crime.

TRADE

Suriname is a hub for arms trafficking, with Brazilian mafias controlling the trade due to the large number of unregistered landing strips in the country. The continuous absence of armed conflicts, along with its strategic geographical location, makes it an ideal transit country. There have been reports of high-level authorities directly profiting from the arms trade and seeking to expand its operations. Arms smuggling is closely related to drug trafficking, and weapons from Venezuela often end up in Suriname through intermediaries involved in cocaine and gold trafficking.

Suriname is both a destination and transit country for counterfeit goods, including cosmetic products, shoes, car parts and foodstuffs. These goods are produced in China and resemble top brands. Cases of these products being sold in the market are underreported due to the lack of supervision. The presence of counterfeit products, including foodstuffs, is generally tolerated in the informal sector linked to the criminal market. Guyanese fishermen are also known to smuggle goods from Suriname into Guyana.

Suriname is both a destination and transit country for illicit trade of Paraguayan cigarettes, with some sold in the local market, but most smuggled to Brazil. Surinamese gangs are partly dedicated to this illicit market and are active between Suriname and the Brazilian states of Maranhão and Belem. Smuggling is a moderate problem in Suriname, with evidence of contraband of other products including alcoholic beverages. Brazilian schooners are a major transportation method for these goods, with little to no control of this activity at the borders.

ENVIRONMENT

Illegal activities related to wood harvesting in Suriname involve various violations, such as conducting logging operations outside of approved plans, underreporting of harvested volumes, inaccurate log measurements and unauthorized commercial felling of trees. This is a difficult issue to tackle as corruption and the vast expanse of rainforest in the country make it difficult to detect illegal cutting despite the use of technology. More than half of the country's logging concessions are owned by Asian companies, but tribal communities living in the forests also contribute to these illegal activities, largely due to poverty. Illegal logging creates tensions between tribes and the government, particularly regarding the government's unwillingness to grant indigenous tribes concessions. The market for illegal logging serves both a domestic and international supply, with China and India being the main customers.

Jaguar poaching is a prominent form of fauna crime in Suriname, with over half of the jaguars poached in South America being killed in the country. Factors contributing to jaguar trafficking include a lack of oversight by local authorities, tribal populations and local miners hunting jaguars on a 'kill-to-order' basis, and hunters from Brazil and Guyana crossing into Suriname for poaching. Criminal networks are not typically involved in jaguar trafficking; rather, this is attributed to individual hunters, illegal miners or loggers taking advantage of a potential buyer. Jaguar smuggling to China mainly occurs by air, but there is also evidence that jaguars have been smuggled by being hidden inside hardwood logs sent by ship. In addition to

jaguars, there is also a European market for songbirds from Suriname, which is a lucrative trade.

Illegal gold mining and trafficking are rampant in Suriname, with the country serving as a transit point for gold from nearby countries. Nearly all of the jobs related to mining are in the informal sector, partly because the government accepts payments from informal actors running small-scale illegal mines or larger formal actors subcontracting artisanal miners. The involvement of larger international networks in illegal gold trafficking is likely to come from neighbouring countries, while local tribes are also known to participate. Mass gold shipments from Suriname to the UAE are being facilitated in a manner that is both lucrative and ideal for money laundering. Also, the movement of gold not necessarily mined in Suriname could make this market the highest-valued criminal market in Suriname.

DRUGS

Heroin is not a significant drug of choice in Suriname, and there is no evidence of heroin smuggling from Suriname to other countries. However, Suriname is a major transit country for cocaine destined for various regions, including Europe, Africa and the US. Drug-related violence is prevalent, although cocaine use in the country is low. Cargo containers are the primary mode of transport for most illicit drugs smuggled through Suriname, but cocaine is also smuggled through commercial and private flights, and human couriers. Weak border controls and a lack of infrastructure make it challenging to detect and interdict drug trafficking, and there is evidence that high-level officials in Suriname might be involved in drug trafficking.

Suriname is a destination for cannabis from French Guiana, as evidenced by seizures made by Guyana's authorities at its border. Suriname is also a trans-shipment point for the smuggling of cannabis to Europe. In relation to local consumption, cannabis use is prevalent in mining areas, where it is grown by individuals and local communities. Although cannabis remains illegal in Suriname, police do not generally enforce regulations against its use in public places, and there are ongoing efforts to legalize it.

The synthetic drugs trade is still considered to be a small market in the country. However, Suriname appears to be a transit point for ecstasy produced in the Netherlands for destinations in the US, Brazil, the Dutch Antilles, Aruba and French Guiana. Despite this, due to its isolation and size, Suriname is not believed to be a particularly attractive trans-shipment point for larger volumes of these drugs or to offer any competitive advantage over other Caribbean locations for the global market.

CYBER-DEPENDENT CRIMES

Suriname's national cyber-security framework is vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Authorities have issued warnings that hackers are testing systems to identify countries with weak cyber-security, with the aim of paralyzing them on a large scale. Although there is no consolidated criminal market for cyber-dependent crimes in Suriname, recent distributed denial-of-service and ransomware attacks on newspapers and public institutions have brought these crimes to the attention of the authorities. In response to the high alerts relating to malware, law enforcement is working with internet providers to enforce security measures by installing specific brand routers.

FINANCIAL CRIMES

There are concerns about financial crimes in Suriname. Corruption is rampant in all aspects of the country, including its institutions, economic sectors, transactions between domestic and foreign businesses, and among citizens. Former high-ranking government officials are currently being investigated and prosecuted for financial crimes. Evidence indicates that most of these crimes were committed by public officials in collaboration with private companies and international enterprises. Some very high-level authorities have already been sentenced to prison for fraud, embezzlement, and violations of banking and anti-corruption laws, as well as other offences.

CRIMINAL ACTORS

The presence of state-embedded actors in Suriname poses a risk, as demonstrated by the country's vice-president, who had been convicted of drug trafficking in Europe before becoming an elected official. A former government's involvement in financial crimes and the creation of a criminal organization have also been uncovered. The state's control over the gold trade and corruption at all levels of government enable criminal gangs to work closely with the state. The close correlation between wealth and political influence suggests that criminal actors embedded within the state engage in excessive resource exploitation.

A new type of criminal network has emerged in Suriname, with this involved in the cocaine smuggling business. These groups are well-structured and organized in all stages of drug transportation to Europe via French Guiana. Additionally, other local groups are involved in the trafficking of illegal commodities, such as cigarettes, people and drugs. It is likely that they operate across the entire country and in neighbouring countries and are part of supply chains that involve operators of brothels and illegal mines. Girls are 'invited' to work for these operators in exchange for payment in gold. These criminal networks typically use a friend-to-friend approach or connections between smaller criminal groups, working as part of a larger supply chain.

Suriname has been identified as a major trans-shipment point for drug trafficking and money laundering, with criminal organizations from the Netherlands believed to have strong ties to organized crime in the country. While foreign actors are not thought to control any other criminal markets in Suriname beyond drug and human trafficking, the largely demobilized Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces and Brazilian criminal organizations are also believed to operate in the country. The Asian diaspora is the most prominent and fastest-growing foreign criminal group in Suriname, with some involved in fauna-related criminal markets.

Private sector actors are involved in various criminal markets in Suriname, including human smuggling and informal Chinese labour and flora crimes. Large multinational corporations pressure government officials for lenient regulations, allowing the illegal flora market to flourish. In the mining sector, formal companies subcontract artisanal miners, and gold shops do not ask for paperwork for what they are buying. Export companies have also been involved in the transport of cocaine abroad. There are no notably powerful or well-structured mafia-style groups dominating important areas of criminal activity in Suriname.

RESILIENCE

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

While the Surinamese government is likely to have prevented larger cartels and organized crime groups from establishing a foothold in the country, the current government remains untested in this regard, facing challenges such as entrenched state corruption, limited power and a vice president who is a convicted drug trafficker. Although the current government has taken steps to combat corruption and financial crimes, nepotism is common in the government, regardless of the party in power, and overall faith in the government remains low.

The new government of Suriname aims to establish new relationships with the US after the previous government's close ties with Russia, China, Venezuela and Guatemala. Suriname became part of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and has received international cooperation on the fight against the criminal drug markets. However, there is a lack of political will to implement different international accords, strengthen institutions, and update laws and regulations. In fact, Suriname's legal framework is largely outdated, unenforced and weak, with most laws relating to organized crime not being updated in the past two decades. The involvement of politicians and influential persons within the government, as well as the lack of political will, further hinder the country's efforts to amend legislation and strengthen institutions. Despite recent reform efforts which reflect a level of commitment to long-term structural reform, Suriname is still lagging behind in implementing legislative amendments and strengthening institutions.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY

Suriname's judiciary system has made progress since the new government took office. There is greater autonomy, and an anti-corruption unit and a Judiciary Intervention Team have been established. However, the judiciary still faces challenges due to corruption and financial dependence on

the executive branch. While the justice system has made some court decisions publicly available, progress is hindered by the lack of modernization and implementation, and the involvement of politicians and influential individuals in the government. The country's prisons suffer from high rates of pre-trial incarceration and poor conditions, although they are not controlled by criminal organizations or gangs.

There is still evidence of corruption within the police force and other government offices, leading to international organizations expressing concern over the poor conditions of the Suriname Police. Police officers work below the poverty line, salaries have declined due to inflation, and there is no central network for police information. This lack of infrastructure may encourage corruption and hinder the fight against organized crime. Suriname also lacks a dedicated law enforcement unit to combat organized crime, and the Intelligence Unit's ability to curb organized crime is severely hindered by a lack of resources, coordination, training and equipment.

Suriname's borders are porous and virtually non-existent due to the thick jungle covering, making it almost impossible for under-resourced law enforcement to protect them. Indigenous peoples who travel by river between villages that cross countries, such as Guyana and Brazil, without identification create a significant loophole that criminals can exploit to transport their goods. Illegal crossings over the Corentyne River, which borders Guyana, are frequent, with corrupt law enforcement officials aiding the smuggling of food products. Gold is another commonly trafficked good from Guyana and French Guiana, and Chinese businesspeople can freely traffic goods into the Paramaribo seaport. Moreover, the thick vegetation provides a convenient cover from air reconnaissance, which is the only method by which these areas may be monitored due to the lack of infrastructure.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Suriname is facing substantial challenges related to money laundering, primarily associated with cocaine, gold and timber trafficking, as well as corruption. To address these issues, Suriname's financial institutions are implementing controls for large cash deposits and proof of identity. The country's Financial Intelligence Unit is also working to improve its financial skills with the support of the US. However, the discovery of oil resources in Suriname may create additional complications related to money laundering and corruption, as seen in other countries with similar resources. Gold mining in Suriname is also likely to attract transnational organized crime groups and some terrorist organizations, facilitating the flow of illicit funds and money laundering. Criminal groups are also setting up money laundering schemes through casinos and foreign exchange offices, highlighting the risks of increasing money laundering activities in Suriname.

Suriname's economic regulatory environment is challenging, and it has poor protection of property rights. Corruption, personal contacts and lengthy licensing and business-launching procedures further undermine the rule of law, enabling organized crime. The lack of basic service delivery from the state, such as electricity and infrastructure, exacerbates the difficulties in the economic environment. Although new oil field discoveries have attracted foreign companies to invest in the sector, the system's vulnerability to government influence and the country's history of enriching those in power, along with their friends, make it easy for criminal groups with political connections to influence economic outcomes. The formal labour market is still being developed, making it difficult to find economic opportunities unless they involve mining concessions and natural resources. Additionally, the recent devaluation resulting from the Central Bank's decision to implement a floating rate poses further challenges to the country's economy.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

The Surinamese government has made notable efforts to assist victims of human trafficking, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has adopted a formal victim referral process, renovated a shelter for victims and published a new National Action Plan. However, the mechanisms identified to support victims in exiting modern slavery are still weak, and there are limited actions regarding victim support within the drug sector.

The Surinamese government has strategies in place to prevent crimes, including drug and human trafficking, money laundering and corruption. The country is part of regional initiatives on social crime prevention for at-risk youth. Although several initiatives for capacity building, prevention, monitoring and evaluation efforts are being conducted, none of these specifically target organized crime.

The country's civil society is well-formed, with many groups and community organizations active across the country. Numerous NGOs are working on community and rural development issues, particularly in the underdeveloped interior. Additionally, environmental NGOs are taking action to reduce jaguar poaching, and reporting this illicit activity to the national authorities. Suriname highly values the freedom to inform, but a national defamation law that punishes journalists for expressing their views against the government is considered a great setback in this regard. Moreover, instances of press freedom violations in Suriname, such as assaults on journalists by security guards, have been reported.

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