



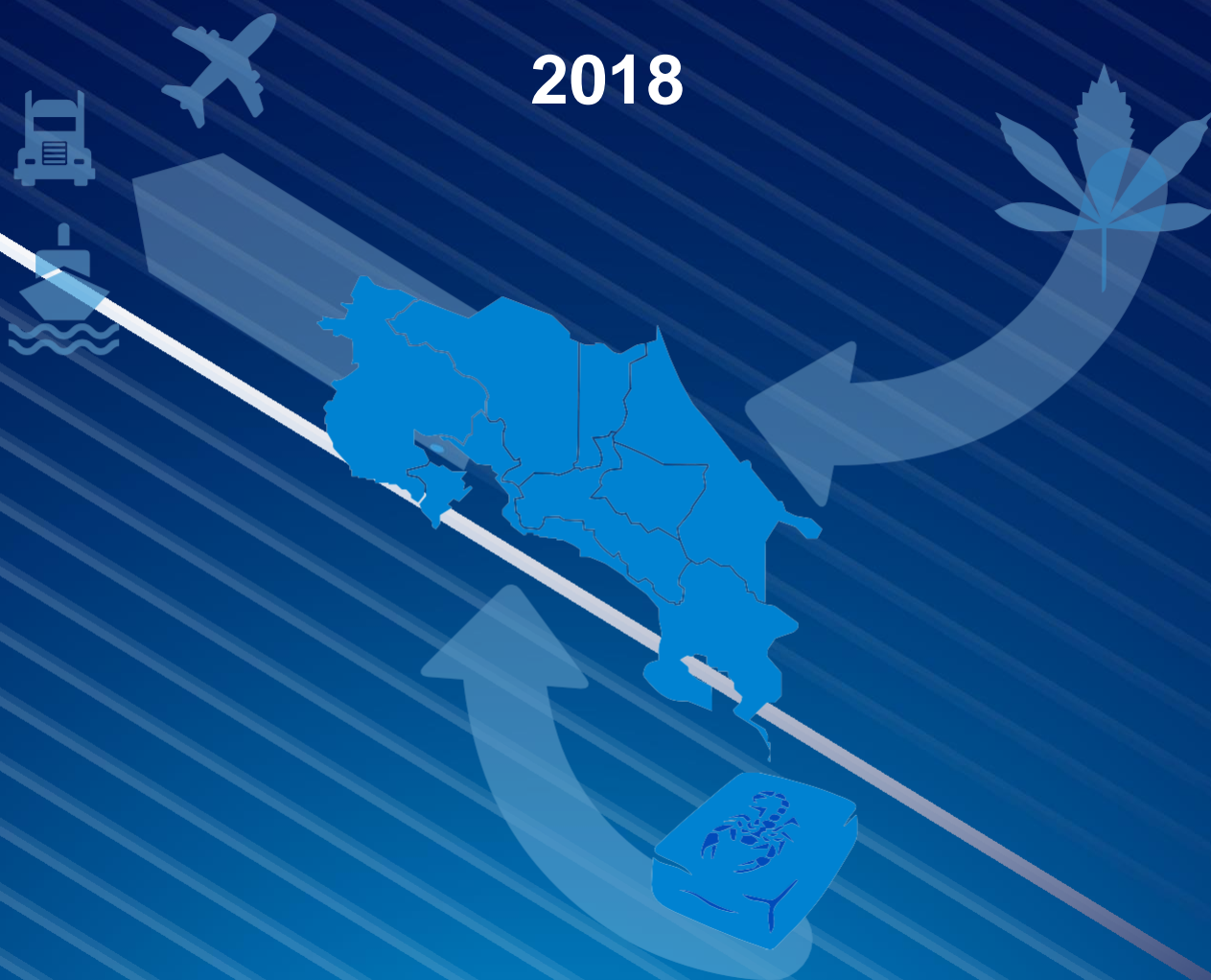
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FOREWORD



This work, carried out by the Criminal Analysis Unit (UAC) attached to the Office of Plans and Operations (OPO) of the Judicial Investigation Organism (OIJ), seeks to facilitate the understanding of the criminal phenomenon and to analyze the criminal situation in Costa Rica.

As part of the methodology used, the information contained in this document is obtained by the OIJ in the course of its work, allowing for an objective and standardized understanding of the types of crime that exist in Costa Rica. In addition, official information was obtained from other public institutions.

This study corroborates the country's privileged location, which is very favorable for some organized criminal groups to take advantage of this territorial advantage and try to manage all the logistics related to drug trafficking, organized crime and related crimes, whether for the purpose of receiving, selling or hiding drugs, people and goods from other countries, to be sent to final destination countries in North America and Europe, among others.

This document informs civil society about the model of effectiveness of police investigative services implemented in the Judicial Investigation Agency, which is based on four pillars: criminal investigation (common crime, organized crime and corruption crimes), elimination of illicit sources of income for criminals, police intelligence and criminal resilience.

One of the aspects most emphasized in this study are the crimes related to corruption, which are more visible nowadays and which the Judicial Investigation Organism has placed special emphasis on, since the dissemination of their pernicious effects has a direct impact on citizens.

The issues addressed by this study have a strong impact on Costa Rican society, whose most important consequences are suffered by people in vulnerable conditions (young people and minors, people living in poverty and without formal education, women heads of household, among others) and are part of the priorities and concerns of our civil society and of the bodies in charge of criminal investigation.

Finally, in my capacity as Director General of the Judicial Investigation Agency of Costa Rica, I would like to thank the effort made by the Office of Plans and Operations (OPO) for the preparation of this document, which I hope will be one more tool to make the national reality known.

Walter Espinoza Espinoza
Director General of the
Judicial Investigation Organism

INTRODUCTION

The political and economic situation in Costa Rica has changed a lot since the last time the country's context was reviewed. This time, five years after the first "x-ray", some crimes have mutated in their content and others have become entrenched.

From the information analyzed, drug trafficking has been the major reference in terms of the cause of violent crime in the country. It has managed to affect criminal statistics in different related crimes such as homicides, extortion, kidnappings and even theft of state property, due to the diversification of criminal groups that resort to other crimes (in order to settle a debt with other groups), or because they have sought an economic income that does not involve so many risks.

The first thing that stands out is the sustained increase in cocaine seizures, whereas in the first report there was an average range of 17 tons per year, however, in this second report, it is possible to notice situations that show an overproduction of drugs in South America.

This is based on the fact that seizures have increased by almost 40 tons per year, there is a greater purity of the drug and the sale price in Costa Rica has dropped to 1,000 6dollars per kilo, as well as the technology allows for more crops per square meter in the drug plantations.

Cocaine enters the country from Colombia and marijuana comes from Jamaica, with less domestic production. In Costa Rica, with respect to the phenomenon of synthetic drugs, the existence of new psychoactive substances has been identified. Foreign criminal groups with Mexican, Colombian and Jamaican roots have been detected.

In the previous report, it was mentioned how the drug trafficking structure depended to a large extent on the figure of a leader without pyramidal support. For this report, criminal organizations have positioned themselves with a more robust structure with specific areas with defined tasks (supply, distribution and collection, protection, economic and operational areas).

Drug trafficking has become a phenomenon associated with the violence and cruelty of criminality through different related crimes such as drug trafficking, extortive kidnapping, extortion and coercion, as well as money laundering, although the latter can be considered as non-violent, the preceding crime that generates the laundering is.

Thus, in terms of homicides, the country has seen a steady increase in the number of murders since the year, with 2013, a 2018 slowdown in the number of deaths, which reflected a decrease in the number of victims¹⁸ compared to 2017, however, it should be noted that the number of multiple homicides during this study period has been a constant, as well as the increase in the so-called "settling of scores" motive, which is generally settled through the extreme use of violence and cruelty.

Extortion and coercion, which have migrated to crimes typical of South American countries, such as the "gota a gota" modality, can be mentioned as a derivation of the violence manifested. Although kidnapping for ransom has registered low numbers, there has been an increase in the number of these crimes associated with drug trafficking debts, where intimidation and torture techniques have been copied from other countries in cases where the kidnapped person has died, the manner of death with great cruelty carries an implicit message to rival groups.

Another crime related to drug trafficking is money laundering, which in the period under study has doubled the number of open cases, since in the year there²⁰¹⁵ were 102 open investigations, while in the year 2000 there were open investigations, while in the year 2000 the²⁰¹⁸ number of open cases doubled. 206.

With regard to common crimes, there has been an increase in the prevalence of crime, where it has been observed that the theft of articles and goods is a function of the opportunities generated to commit a crime, and that the lack of

The above-mentioned increase is due to the existence of a marginal market that is willing to purchase them illicitly at a much lower price.

One aspect to which attention should be paid is white-collar crime and corruption, which follow the same pattern of opportunities reflected through lax controls and the motivation of companies seeking profit through bribes, or criminal organizations that resort to intimidation or bribery to perpetuate criminal activity. The participation of key officials within the government apparatus is an essential element in making the crime possible.

Regarding the presence of gangs in the country, it is striking that only in the years and (20172018even counting each year separately), more gang members have entered the country than all those who entered in the period 2005 to 2016. One aspect that makes it difficult to track them is the refugee applications when they arrive on national soil.

As for the trafficking of objects and merchandise, there has been a considerable increase in the seizure of pre-Columbian artifacts. Only the first half of the year surpassed2018 the number of seizures of previous years. Likewise, the country reports a significant flow of flora and fauna species through ports and airports, mainly insects and reptiles, as well as plants and precious woods. The entry into the country of non-native species, such as the Nile monitor lizard, a reptile that can reach up to two meters in length, should be noted.

The international flow of arms smuggling into the country reverses the traditional trend that illegal arms come from the north, since they now also enter from the south of the country, in addition to the fact that new market niches have opened up in the south of the continent as a result of the Latin American context. In our country, thanks to the use of technology, it has been possible to prove the existence of a marginal market related to the use and lending of weapons, since it has been possible to determine the use of the same weapon or several of them in different crimes throughout the national territory.

In terms of illegal human flows, Costa Rica is mainly a country of destination and to a lesser extent a country of origin or transit with respect to the crime of human trafficking. The most common forms of exploitation are sexual in the case of adult women and labor in the case of men. Illegal human trafficking flows are mostly regional, that is, they come from Central America, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

Migrants (potential victims of traffickers) are mainly from the Caribbean, with nationals from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Haiti identified. The Cubans are merely transiting to the United States, while the others are seeking to settle in the country. The other regional group comes from South America (Colombians, Ecuadorians, Venezuelans and Bolivians), whose main intention is to remain in Costa Rica as refugees or permanently, although their vulnerable condition may make them victims of trafficking.

As a corollary to this report, the effect of the economy on the police function cannot go unnoticed, where the number of complaints has increased considerably in recent years and the operational capacity has remained constant, This implies that despite the efforts to increase performance and provide strict monitoring through performance indicators of the work carried out by the OIJ, if this situation is not reversed with new police resources, the rates of resolution by the Judicial Police may soon drop, which would lead to a deterioration of security and social peace in the country.

CHAPTER I

PROFILING OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY

- **Organized crime**
- **Common crime**
- **White collar crime and corruption**
- **Presence of gangs in the country**



PROFILING OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY

A summary or profile of the country's criminal activity is shown, covering the three criminal groups that the Judicial Investigation Organism works with under the police management scheme called "Effectiveness of police investigation services", which include both the investigation of facts related to common crime, as well as the more elaborate product of organized crime, without forgetting the comprehensive approach to crimes associated with corruption in the country.

1.1. Organized crime

The background of a criminality understood as an organized criminal structure, which actively and permanently seeks to strengthen the criminal operation, can be traced back to the time of the decade of the nineties with 1990 the emergence of car theft gangs. In fact, there is a connection between this type of crime and a more violent evolution towards other types of crime such as extortion and kidnapping.

Today, however, drug trafficking is the common denominator of organized crime. At the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century, drug use was occasional and generally limited to vulnerable segments of the population that smoked marijuana or high-profile individuals with high purchasing power.

All this changed from the 1980s onwards, when some attempts began to be made to forge more structured criminal organizations from the south of the continent, however, the flow of drugs did not have our country as a final destination, but rather served as a bridge between South American producers and consumers in the north of the continent.

This functional utilitarianism of the country evolved until it became a warehouse for drugs coming from the countries that produce them, however, the local drug market was reduced to terminal sellers who took advantage of some kind of shipment to which they could have access to supply domestic consumption.

The first is the strengthening and specialization of the Colombian and Mexican drug cartels, which began to send large shipments of cocaine to the northern hemisphere.

The second is related to the method of payment, where instead of paying with money for the logistical services of storing and distributing drugs to nationals, drugs began to be used as a means of payment instead of cash. This led to predatory practices between different criminal actors who began to join forces in order to dominate a given territory and gain control over the routes.

The third is related to globalization and the advance of technology, mass media and the deployment of its application in criminal activities, which not only allowed for more direct communications and subterfuge, but also favored the harvesting of more potent drugs in greater quantities per square meter of plantation.

From the decade onwards 2010, these changes began to transform the national criminal reality and a criminal group called "mini-cárteles criollos" emerged, which resembled the large Latin American drug cartels.

These cartels begin to generate their criminal activity, but on a much smaller scale, trying to emulate the large Mexican and Colombian drug cartels, but resembling the Costa Rican culture in their actions, with less capacity for distribution, storage and sale. The common factors of these mini-cartels are the following.



1.1.1. Organization

These criminal groups have a basic structure that allows them to operate in the country, making criminal activity possible through roles that have been defined and outlined by the Judicial Investigation Organism. Among these roles are the following:

Criminal leader: in charge of planning, supervising and evaluating the functions carried out by the other members of the organization. They are aggressive individuals of low education, who in most cases pretend not to appear, so they rely heavily on their accomplices to carry out the various command functions, they have in their power a defined structure, where the ringleader has the task of being the link between the local organization and international cartels. They are in charge of setting prices, costs and defining negotiations.

Economic area: these are the trusted personnel in charge of the organization's accounting records. This area also includes front men or persons who act as owners of the assets acquired by the criminal structure. As a related crime, these people are in charge of investing the money so that it can be returned to the cash flow in a clean manner.

Criminal link area: these are the people in charge of carrying out illicit acts or criminal activities in order to collaborate with the criminal organization; many of these members are young and inexperienced. Their criminal activities include obtaining the necessary inputs for the development of the activity, such as weapons, vehicles, money and mobile devices, which are obtained through robberies and assaults.

Protection area: these are the members of the structure that carry out crimes such as threats, kidnappings, extortion or coercion, thus shielding the structure and allowing it to remain in place and to function. The gunmen are inexperienced youths who, when they miss a target, increase the number of gunshot wounds or collateral deaths. There are also cases in which the structure hires foreign hitmen with a higher level of expertise. This group is also in charge of protecting the leader and the territory under his control.

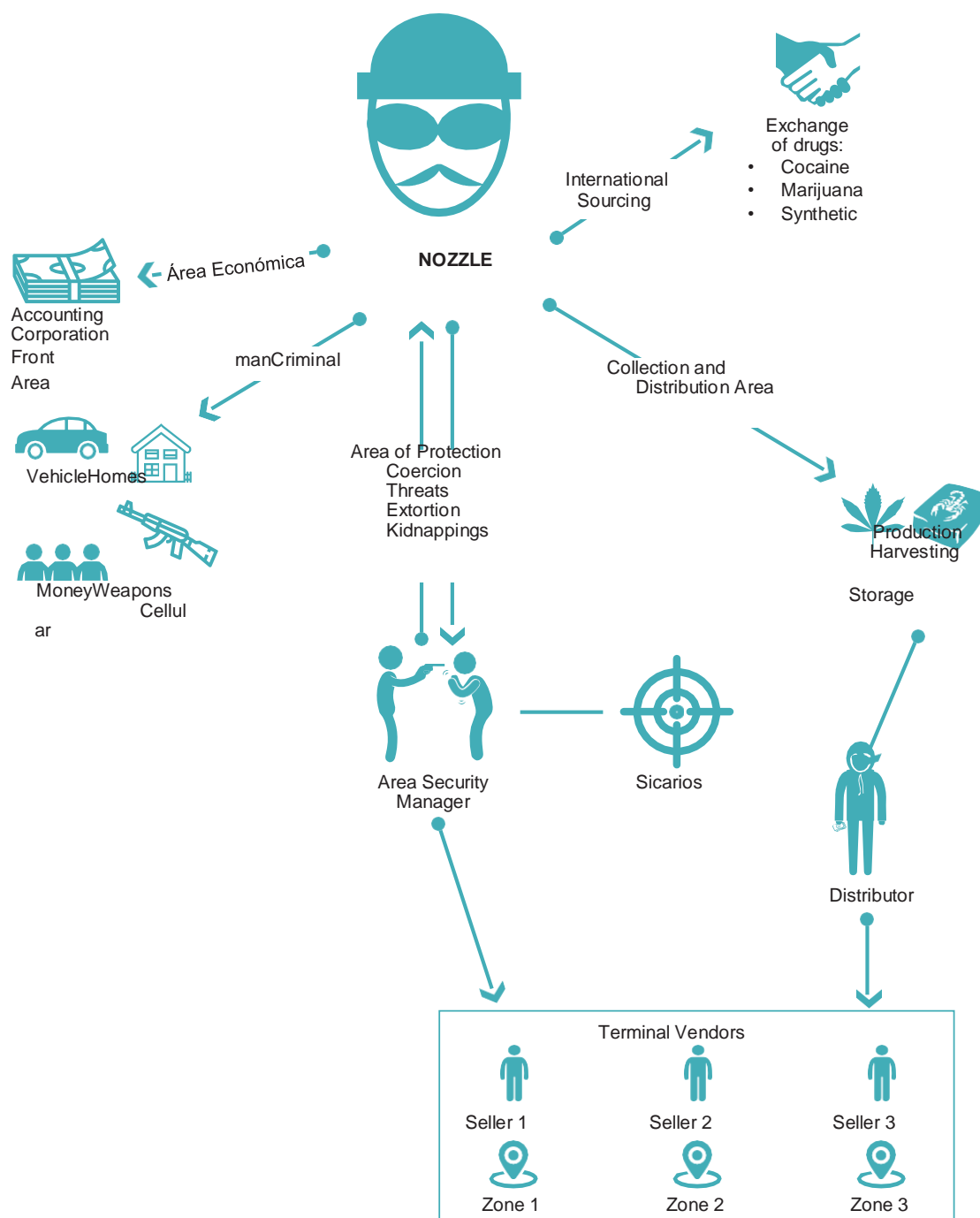
Distribution and collection area: this group stores the drugs coming from abroad and is also in charge of converting them and preparing doses (marijuana sticks and crack stones) for their subsequent distribution to the different terminal or **bunker** sellers, thus achieving an uninterrupted sale. After the sale, the distributor will be in charge of collecting the profits to be taken to those in charge of accounting; in this way they achieve total control of the area.



Bunker: generally dilapidated structures prepared exclusively for the sale of drugs, humble and rudimentary in appearance, with an abandoned look.



Figure N° MINI1. CRIOLL MINI CARTELS



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

1.1.2. Territoriality

Although the presence or influence of internationally recognized cartels has been detected in Costa Rica, it is not possible to speak of a prolonged settlement or permanence of these groups in the national territory. The local mini-cartels are influenced by Mexican or Colombian groups, but they have been "tropicalized" to Costa Rican idiosyncrasies in order to reproduce and even imitate the way in which other individuals or companies carry out their activities and adapt them to Costa Rican conditions.

The phenomenon of drug trafficking in Costa Rica has two approaches:

- **International trafficking:** through national or foreign intermediaries who help with the logistics associated with the transfer of drugs from the large cartels.
- **National trafficking:** in the case of local sales, it is controlled by terminal sellers who answer directly to the local mini-cartels, according to their geographic distribution.

An approach to the national phenomenon can be found in the classification made by the Italian Police, being that the criminal structures develop as if they were leopard skin spots, that is, small organizations distributed throughout the national territory without an extensive domain, on the contrary, having power in small sectors in various areas nationwide.

1.1.3. Criminal structure

These groups present a very dissimilar criminal structure and their main changes occur among their own members. The recruitment of criminals is not always the neatest and they must depend on the human resources they can obtain, without this meaning that these new participants are the most apt to develop in the criminal environment, lacking suitable characteristics such as discipline or loyalty.

In this way, the same idiosyncrasy is what has caused foreign drug trafficking groups not to settle definitively on national soil, as has occurred in countries where there is an army, because in our country they do not internalize behaviors typical of military groups and rather the same criminals within the group seek to "unseat" the leader and obtain for themselves and exclusively all the benefits of the command of a criminal group.

The main characteristic is associated with the temporary continuity of these criminal groups, since the rotation of members in short periods or migration to other criminal groups generates a predatory phenomenon that causes conflict among the same organizations, since loyalty to the criminal group is violated by those who leave to form another criminal structure or by power struggles within the same group.

1.1.4. Criminal predicate

These types of criminals are not exclusively dedicated to drug trafficking, but have managed to diversify their criminal activity. Many of these criminals are also involved in other crimes such as assaults, car theft and disarmament, **extortion** and **extortion** of state property, such as the theft of fuel from state pipelines or the misuse of fuel resulting from government benefits for developing a productive activity.

All of this has led to increased levels of violence in recent years in Costa Rica, due to the criminal activity itself, such as debts for money in the drug trade, loss of drugs due to police seizures or the territorial control exercised by the group to sell drugs.

Since the year 2013 there has been an annual increase in the number of cases of homicides by the motive of settling of scores, which reflects the use of murders to resolve conflicts. The violence and sadism with which the crimes have been carried out have left regrettable and extreme episodes that have marked the country.



Extortion of gota a gota loans: loans granted without further collateral or formalities, which are agreed for a certain amount and the conditions are unilaterally modified to obtain usurious interest rates, under the threat of physical aggression if payment is not made.



Tumbonazo: seizure of drugs by force by an enemy group.



In the past, when the bodies of murdered persons arrived at the Forensic Pathology Section (judicial morgue), it was common to find one or two gunshot wounds, while stab wounds were the only wounds necessary to end life.

Currently, there are cases of multiple murders, finding dismembered bodies, burned alive, with signs of torture, blindfolded and blindfolded with shotgun blasts, people who have been decapitated using cutting tools, such as emery boards or bladed weapons.

Another aspect that cannot be left unmentioned is the fact that opposing groups upload videos or photographs to social networks showing how they torture and murder their victims.

1.1.5. Characterization of detainees

Due to the prevalence of drug trafficking as one of the crimes with the greatest impact in terms of organized crime in the country, according to statistical data, most of those convicted of this crime are Costa Rican men who work as drug dealers, logistical collaborators or transporters in direct contact with drugs.

The percentage of foreigners arrested for drug trafficking in the country has been around 15% in recent years. Among them are Colombians and Mexicans, most of whom belong to a larger group or organization in their country of origin, but there are also Salvadorans, Hondurans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans, most of whom have been arrested for transporting drugs, either by truck over land or by boat across one of the oceans.

Table No. 1.Percentage number of persons arrested for drug-related cases per year

Year	Foreigners % Foreigners	Domestic
2012	14.3	85.7
2013	14	86
2014	14.2	85.8
2015	14.7	85.3
2016	15.8	84.2
2017	16.8	83.1
2018	23.1	76.9

Source: Costa Rican Institute on Drugs

Table N° Number of 2.persons sentenced for drug trafficking according to type of sentence

Year	Convictive % Convictive % Convictive % Convictive % Convictive % Convictive	Absolute % Absolute % Absolute % Absolute % Absolute % Absolute	Sentenced persons
2010	78,2	21,8	1066
2011	82,5	17,5	1160
2012	83	17	1283
2013	79,7	20,3	1356
2014	80,7	19,3	1194
2015	84,8	15,2	1316



2016	85,4	14,6	1223
2017	87,1	12,9	1193

Source: Directorate of Planning, Judicial Branch



1.2. Common crime

Common crime seeks personal benefit or economic advantage through the commission of a crime against property, whether through the use of force against things, violence against people or more elaborate schemes that do not involve violence, such as fraud. This scope does not include the so-called white-collar crimes and corruption, which will be dealt with later on.

According to the studies of the Nobel Prize winner in Economics, Gary Becker, crime committed for monetary advantage is a driving force of the economy. This theory refutes positivist and interactionist ideas that crime is due to problems inherent to the individual (poor physical, psychological or psychological training) or to a lack of socialization of the individual. Like Émile Durkheim, he considered that crime will not necessarily end, but is part of today's society.

According to Becker, the commission of crimes responds to a rational choice of the offender, who seeks to obtain a benefit greater than the cost invested, whether the possibility of being caught is very low and the booty to be obtained exceeds the punishment entailed by the prison sentence or the established fine (Becker, 1974).

Crimes that seek a patrimonial benefit by means of property seizure occur because there is a captive market willing to acquire those goods at prices much lower than the amount they normally cost. This ambivalent attitude of citizens who demand better police controls and a better quality of life, contrasts with the questionable behavior of acquiring property through a clear criminal precedent. A clear example of this is that every year there is a seizure of 100 thousand cell phones, with the consequent detriment that many victims must continue to pay their phone plan (Morris, 2016).

It is important to point out that the market establishes which goods are tradable and which are not. For example, it is common nowadays to observe that flat screen televisions are stolen in home robberies, because there is a marginal market for televisions that acquires them illicitly at prices well below the official price.

However, when these home thefts occur, it is normal to observe that old televisions with cathode rays, which generated a huge bulge on the back of the set, are not stolen.

Likewise, there are no thefts of old technology car radios with cassette or even compact disc players when a vehicle is wrecked. This is because there is no marginal market willing to buy obsolete technology.

This is of particular interest because criminals want to obtain an advantage, generally economic, from what has been stolen. However, these criminals are unlikely to be willing to sell the stolen goods, so they use intermediaries known as receivers or "topadores", who ensure that they can turn the stolen goods into cash, so it is of no use for a criminal to have stolen 10 laptops if he cannot turn them into cash.

It is at this point of intermediation where the problem arises in order to trace the crime, since generally a person will be involved in receiving and then placing these stolen items on the marginal market. In this regard, the criminal code establishes the following regarding the receiving of suspicious goods:

"Article Receipt 331. of things of suspicious origin. It shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to four years to the one who, without previous promise to the crime, receives things or goods that according to the circumstances, should be presumed to come from a crime. If the perpetrator makes it a habitual traffic, the respective security measure shall be imposed."

In this regard, it is important to point out that the number of people brought to trial is very small, as can be seen below:

Table N°3 . Number of persons sentenced for receiving stolen goods, by type of sentence, by year 2017

Crime and title of the penal code	Total	Type of sentence	
		Condemnator y	Absolute
Receipt of doubtful origin	10	5	5

Source: Directorate of Planning, Judicial Branch

Thus, the offender dedicated to obtaining economic advantages from other people's goods has a particular characteristic in the case that he acts alone (he is not committing an orchestrated crime within a criminal group), such as the fact that he will look for what is most feasible to convert into cash, and in the meantime the figure of the receiver becomes more important because he is the intermediary who makes the crime possible through a quick placement of the objects. However, the receiver is one of the least visible actors in the criminal process.

1.3. White collar crime and corruption

Corruption is an issue that has been becoming visible in the national arena, not only as a citizen feeling of indignation, but also as a problem that leaves losses to the Costa Rican State, of large sums of money to the detriment of the community in favor of individuals or limited groups as a result of the payment of bribes and kickbacks. There are studies that establish that the cost of corruption is equivalent to a figure of 5% of the Gross Domestic Product (UN, 2018).

Corruption offenses can be divided into four main groups, depending on the objective and the interaction with other persons or stakeholders.

The first of these is the fraudulent action performed by an individual in a personal capacity who seeks a patrimonial advantage but does not interact with other persons in order to do so. Some examples of this are the embezzlement of funds or the theft of property entrusted to him by the State.

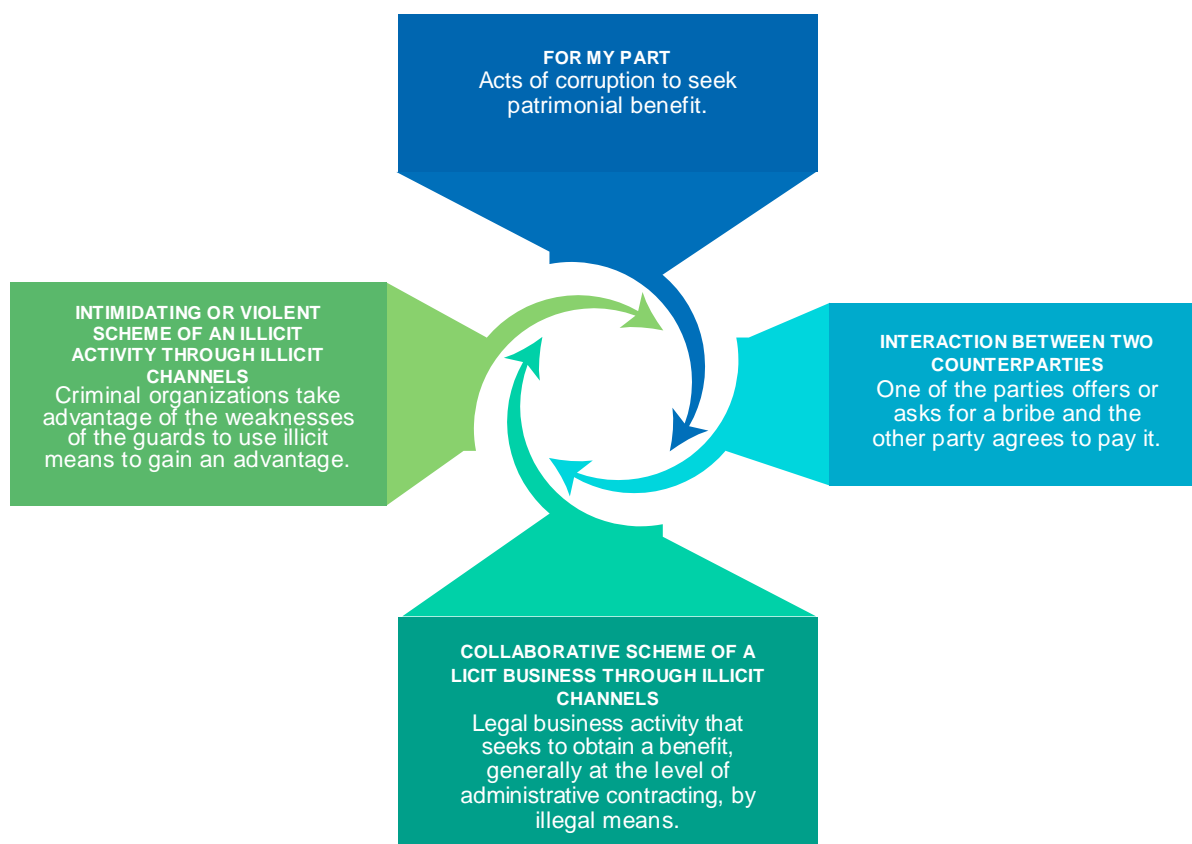
The second type of crime is the one committed by a person in a personal capacity in which he/she requests a financial advantage from a third party to do or not to do a certain job in what is known as bribery or the traditional "mordida" (bribe).

The third example involves collaborative schemes in which officials interact with organized groups, generally private companies that carry out licit business. These organized groups have as a particular characteristic the recruitment of public officials, offering a gratification oriented to satisfy the weak points of each person, which could be money, travel, pleasure, a manifest ideology, etc.

This is known as "white collar" crime, which among other things means that there are companies or organizations that systematically want to do legal business with the government, but in order to gain access to participate in this legal business, they make illegal moves to achieve their goal.

Finally, with respect to the fourth criminal classification, the country has had to face a penetration of organized criminal groups that, in order to remain in marginal activity, resort to the recruitment of officials in key positions. These groups of a criminal nature seek to achieve horizontal integration through intimidation or threats so that the official performs acts against his will or because he has an affinity or affiliation with the criminal group. Illicit activity mainly involves violent crimes, including those related to drug trafficking and related crimes such as homicides, extortion and kidnappings.

Figure N° Forms2. of corruption in Costa Rica



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Regarding these collaborative schemes, the operational capacity of the groups stands out, which through contacts and interests of related groups manage to achieve their objective within a vertical integration (public officials and private enterprise). The theory establishes that at higher levels of vertical economic integration, companies that use illegal ways to access public procurement have more political protection and access to senior figures in society, as well as senior hierarchs (Tablante and Morales, 2018).

This occurs basically because of a situation explained through the crime triangle, where there are three situations required for the act of corruption to occur:

- Motivation
- Opportunity
- Absence of control

The motivation can be any incentive that both the corrupting party and the party that allows itself to be corrupted have. Generally, it is the obtaining of economic gratification for both parties (greed), but it has been noted that there are other elements that facilitate corruption such as hedonism (trips abroad, parties, alcohol, sexual gratification) or extreme enlightenment (religious motives, access to power, promotion in status or of a political nature).

The second component of this triangle is opportunity. There is an asymmetry between state organizations with respect to the opportunities that are created. The mission of the state organization in terms of being able to interact with economic funds is a determining factor in the creation of opportunities. Likewise, the discretion they may have to establish or access benefits is another factor that favors corruption.

The third component is the lack or absence of authority or supervision, which may be a complacent leadership or the existence of superficial controls, which allows the opportunity to commit the crime to overcome an obstacle that does not really put up much resistance, as the popular saying goes, "in open coffers, even the most righteous sin".

This component, as well as that of opportunity, will depend on each state entity, where some superiors may have a very strong control culture, while others very conveniently have very weak control schemes. In some institutions there is strict and thorough supervision, while others operate with minimal supervision, which makes them more prone to committing acts of corruption.

1.4. Presence of gangs in the country

The presence of gangs in the country is another aspect that deserves attention, because in other countries the effects of these groups have been of great impact, however, to date there is no marked correlation between the stay of these gangs in our country and the increase in crime.

It should be noted that the generic term "gang member" refers to any person who has belonged to the Mara Salvatrucha or 13 the Barrio gang from 18, the so-called *Northern Triangle* of Central America.

Having made this clarification, it is necessary to indicate that a total of 91 gang members have entered the country to date. The following table contains information on the distribution of income according to the number of people detected and recognized as gang members who have entered the country since the year 2000.

Two clearly marked trends should be noted, the first between the years 2005 to 2016 in which period only 19 gang members were admitted, while in the years 2017 and 2018 a significant increase can be seen where either of these two years exceeded the number of gang members admitted in previous years.¹¹

**Table No. 4. members detected who have entered Costa Rica
Years 2005-2018**

Year to 2005-2016	Year 2017	Year 2018
19	32	40

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

However, there are 91 confirmed gang members who have entered the country; however, others are still awaiting verification pending a response from the Transnational Anti-Gang Center or information linking or ruling them out as gang members, so the figure could increase. The criminal affiliation of the persons identified as gang members can be corroborated in the following table.

Table N° 5. Provenance of accredited gang members who entered Costa Rica during the year 2018

Country	MS-13	Barrio Gang 18	Gangs USA
El Salvador	48	23	3
Nicaragua	6	4	2
Honduras	1	1	0
Costa Rica	1	1	1
Total	56	29	6



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

It should be noted that of the number of gang members who have entered the country and have been deported between 2017 and 2018, a total of gang members 34 left the Central Region Apprehension Center of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners of Costa Rica. The following table shows the above.

Table No. Number 6. of gang members from the Northern Triangle deported from the country Year and 2017 2018

2017	2018
12	22

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

In another order of things, and not related to gang members, the following table shows the number of people from the Northern Triangle of Central America who have been sentenced to prison. Of these detainees, five of those arrested are linked to gangs in the triangle and are accused of crimes such as kidnapping for ransom, aggravated robbery and drug trafficking, among others.

Table No. Number 7. of persons from the Northern Triangle of Central America held in prison centers in the country

El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras
50	47	37

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

In this regard, the article of the 8 Regulation on Refugees dated 01 November of establishes 2011 the principle of confidentiality in the proceedings, which makes it impossible to locate them.

The following table shows the number of people from the Northern Triangle of Central America who have requested refuge. It is worth clarifying that all of these people are not considered gang members/mareros.

Table No. Details 8. of refugee applications to the 2016 2018

Country	2016	2017	2018
Guatemala	7	22	15
Honduras	149	225	222
El Salvador	1471	1644	1330

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

CHAPTER 2

TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS, PEOPLE, ANIMALS, GOODS AND OBJECTS

- Drug trafficking
- Arms trafficking
- Trafficking in works of art and cultural property
- Trafficking in exotic and endangered animals
- Human trafficking and smuggling



TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS, PEOPLE, ANIMALS, GOODS AND OBJECTS

2.1. Drug trafficking

2.1.1. Cocaine trafficking

Cocaine production has increased in recent years in Colombia (UNODC, 2017). According to the cocaine monitoring report for Colombia, carried out by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODC), the number of cocaine crops suffered a significant increase from 96 thousand hectares in 2015 to one thousand 146 hectares in 2016; for an increase of 52%. If we add to this the production of neighboring countries such as Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, whose final destination is North America, mainly the United States, which is the largest consumer, the outlook is not very flattering.

The increase in cocaine production is associated with both an increase in the area under cultivation and an increase in yields due to technological improvements, which is having an impact on illegal markets.

It should be recalled that several years ago the Colombian government banned aerial spraying, as this had health consequences for farmers, while damaging other crops, such as fruits and vegetables. The producers of cocoa plants have even seen the need for agronomists to analyze and carry out tests to change the natural color of the leaf, so that it is not detected through the aerial photographs taken by the National Police to eradicate this type of crop.

According to data provided by UNODC (2017), for the year 2016 in Colombia a reduction in prices was reported in all products derived from cocaine, for example, the sale of cocaine leaf per kilo went from \$1.09 in the year to 2015 dollars 0,95 in the year for 2016 a decrease of dollars 0,32

Production per kilo of coca paste in the year cost 2015 dollars 732 and in the year cost 2016 dollars 621 for a decrease of \$111; cocaine base cost \$978 in 2015 and in 2016 cost \$814 for a decrease of dollars 164 per kilo (UNODC, 2017).

For its part, the kilo of cocaine hydrochloride in 2015 had a cost of 1732 dollars and by 2016 it cost 1633 dollars for a decrease of dollars 99. The following table allows visualizing the above (UNODC, 2017).

Table N° Cocaine prices⁹ in Colombia per kilogram, by year

Cocaine status	2015		2016	
	Colombian peso	U.S. dollars	Colombian peso	U.S. dollars
Kilo of cocaine leaf	3,000	1,09	2,900	0,95
Kilo of basic pasta	2,005,700	732	1,895,700	621
Kilo of cocaine base	2,681,700	978	2,485,900	814
Kilo of cocaine hydrochloride	4,747,300	1,732	4,984,600	1,633

Source: UNODC

For the year 2018, the UNODC in its document on the monitoring of territories affected by illicit crops 2017 refers to an update of the value of products derived from coca leaf, where it is possible to note that the decrease in the cost of the different products continues:

Value of Coca-derived products 2017:

Coca leaf (USD \$0.71/kg), Cocaine base (USD \$772/kg), Cocaine hydrochloride (USD \$1,508/kg)

Source: UNODC, 2017

According to percentage data obtained from the UNODC, the countries that seize the most cocaine worldwide per year are Colombia with 35%, followed by the United States with 15%. Costa Rica is in the tenth position with 3% of the total world cocaine seized.

Table No. of cocaine seizures¹⁰, by country, Year 2017

Country	Percentage of world total
Colombia	35
United States	15
Ecuador	9
Panama	7
Venezuela	4
Bolivia	4
Spain	3
Brazil	3
Mexico	3
Costa Rica	3

Source: UNODC

The flow of cocaine through Central America remains stable. According to UNODC, 2017, for the year 2015 (last recorded update) a total of approximately 86 tons of cocaine were seized: Panama registered the largest drug seizure with 62% of the total, Costa Rica has the second place with 20% and Guatemala 7% for 89% of the total drug seized in the region, the remaining 11% is distributed in the other Central American countries (Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Belize).

In this context, Costa Rica is a strategic point for the transit of cocaine by land, air and maritime routes. In addition to its role as a drug transit and storage zone, the country currently functions not only in this way, but also to supply a local consumer market, which has increased in recent years.

Table No. Quantity 11.seized by year by type of drug in Costa Rica from 2010 to 2008 2018

Year	Cocaine (kg)	Crack stones	Cannabis plants	Marijuana stash (kg)	Hashish (kg)	Heroin (kg)	Ecstasy doses	LSD dose
2010	11265,7	198943	2054190	575,9	0,300	109,5	374	0
2011	8952,9	162030	1489259	1582,2	0,0	4,6	19183	16
2012	15596,1	156812	965320	3070,5	0,0	13,0	293	5
2013	20458,4	164534	1461747	4123,4	0,0	4,0	12342	851
2014	26876,5	180674	882554	12005,3	0,0	3,4	237	15666
2015	17035,3	184214	1727175	6422,1	0,0	30,5	406	158
2016	23244,0	229412	2122922	12205	0,192	0,039	3512	101
2017	27925,2	319659	1921297	7346,2	0,00	0,02	53992	1327
2018	27546,7	324427	1346273	6231,0	0,03	0,00	54203	847

Source: Costa Rican Institute on Drugs
* one crack stone weighs approximately g0,15

For the period from year to 2010 year, 2018, Costa Rica has seized slightly more than tons 22 of cocaine per year, being the year 2017 of the largest seizure with a little more than tons 27. If this drug were to be sold in Costa Rica, it would have reached a value of approximately millions 162 of dollars.

In Central America, a kilo of cocaine ranges between US\$6,000 and US\$10,000 per kilo, taking into account the entry through Panama and the exit through Guatemala and Belize; each time it leaves a country and the drug heads north, this value increases.

As an example, as a result of the investigations, it is known that when cocaine arrives in Costa Rica it has an approximate value of 6000 US\$ 17500 per kilo and as it moves towards the north of the continent, the intermediation cost is close to US\$1 per kilo 15000 in Mexico and when it arrives in the United States (one of the final destinations), this drug acquires a value of US\$1 27000 50000 per kilo of cocaine, depending on the state or region of the North American country.

Figure N° Price 3. of the drug in dollars by country of destination



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The estimated retail price of a gram of cocaine in Costa Rica, according to information obtained from the *Costa Rica Situation Report 2013*, was between 8,000 and 9,000 colones in 2012 and 7,000 colones in 2013. For the years 2017 and 2018, the price is colones.6000

Regarding this decrease, Wainwright (2017) states that drug cartels are run as a corporation and that this translates into lower prices for the consumer.

The factor that could explain this change in the price of cocaine could be, according to Wainwright, the increase in cocaine production by South American countries, which increases the volume of drugs on the streets, which saturates the market, ergo, the more production the lower the price. In addition, technological innovations - as already indicated - have favored the extraction of more cocaine base per square meter planted.

It should be noted that the purity of cocaine in recent years has increased, according to studies conducted by the Analytical Chemistry Section of the Forensic Science Department of the Judicial Investigation Organism, which increased from 77.03% to 86.37% purity in five years.

Table No. Purity¹² of cocaine seized in Costa Rica

Year	Number of samples	Lower quartile limit 25%.	Median 50% Median	Upper quartile limit 75%.
2013	165	60,10	77,03	83,26
2014	111	70,77	76,58	83,35
2015	171	68,00	75,00	80,00
2016	139	74,00	78,00	83,00
2017	75	82,06	86,37	91,37

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

According to the experts interviewed from the Analytical Chemistry Section, the purity levels for 2017 are quite high, as the analyses demarcate purity percentages between 82.06% and 91.37% as the lower and upper limits. In this sense, it must be taken into account that the purity index identified corresponds largely to the cocaine seized and that this has not undergone so many alterations since it left the producing region, as it does in other countries further north of the continent.

The use of crack (a derivative of cocaine) is concentrated mainly in urban areas, in certain cantons of the country's cities, such as San José, Alajuela, Alajuelita, Desamparados and others.

Crack is a highly addictive drug, of very poor quality and offered at an extremely low price. The market value of a dose or rock of crack can be acquired for little more than one US dollar (around 500 and 1000 colones). For each kilo of cocaine (costing approximately \$6000) it is possible to produce 12000

stones of crack, this means that the \$6,000 that a kilo of cocaine costs is converted into a sale of approximately \$24,000.



The **quartiles** are the **three values** of the variable that **divide a set of ordered data into four equal parts**. Q1, Q2 and Q3 determine the values corresponding to 25%, 50% and 75% of the data.

Crack is obtained by mixing a part of cocaine in hydrochloride form with sodium bicarbonate and water. After evaporation of the solvent used for homogenization in the cocaine mixture, a smokable product is obtained.

**Table No. Quantity¹³ of crack stone seized per year**

Year	Quantity (stone)
2012	154900
2013	164534
2014	185260
2015	184214
2016	229412
2017	319659
2018	324427

Source: Costa Rican Institute on Drugs

The year 2018, reflects an increase in the seizure of crack stones, where a total of 324427 stones are reported for an increase of 1.5% if compared to the previous year, which reported the seizure of 319 659 stones. In total, in the seven years of study, a total of 1562406 stones have been seized, which at the current price of around 1000 colones, would have an approximate value in the local market of colones.1562406000

The trend of cocaine use at school age has increased considerably according to the report *IV National Survey on Drug Use in the Population* conducted by the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA). For 2015, the mean age of onset of cocaine use was at 14.1 years and the trend age is 13 years, a value that changed with respect to the one with the 2012, trend age of years.16

A fact that should call for reflection on drug seizures in Costa Rica is that in 2018, specifically in Perez Zeledon, the first seizure at the national level of plants of the *Erythroxylaceae* family species *Erythroxylum coca*, known as the cocaine plant, took place.

This seizure was achieved thanks to the investigations carried out in the area where the possible coca plants were observed, which was later verified with the corresponding laboratory studies.

This seizure opens the door to the possible cultivation in our country of the plant used as a base for the production of cocaine hydrochloride and from which its alkaloids are extracted through chemical processes, which is considered a potent stimulant of the central nervous system and with a high tendency to cause dependence. The origin of the coca plant comes from the South American region, where it is grown in Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. Its cultivation requires warm and humid soils, typical of the Andean region, where altitudes range from altitudes of up to 800 to meters above sea level to 2500. The geographical conditions of the Valle de El General region, south of the province of San José, are favorable for its cultivation, as it also has a humid tropical climate where the altitude ranges from up to 721 meters above sea level.3820

2.1.2. Marijuana trafficking

Marijuana trafficking and consumption has a different behavior in the country and it could be said that it has three sources or origins.

The first source is the marijuana produced in the country, grown mainly in mountainous areas, such as Cerro Chirripó and Talamanca. The component of these plants is little liked, as it contains a very low THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive component of marijuana), which makes it a drug with a lower effect and a lower selling price for consumption.

The second source is marijuana produced in Jamaica, known as "High Red", which enters the country by sea using boats, mostly fishing boats, on a route from Costa Rica to Jamaica and vice versa, passing through the San Andres Archipelago.

The marijuana is transported mainly by Costa Ricans who, in coordination with various criminal groups, place an order, which is divided once it is located in Costa Rican territory. As a relevant finding, marijuana coming from Jamaica is often exchanged for cocaine through barter, i.e., boats with cocaine leave Costa Rica for Jamaica to bring marijuana and the exchange is made in kind and not with money.

The third source is marijuana known as "Creepy", produced using the hydroponics technique. The seeds are brought mainly from the United States, entering by mail in small quantities that are difficult to control, and are subsequently cultivated in the country. Likewise, their reproduction occurs through the buds, allowing the plants to produce "offspring" in a more efficient way, and from the plant's surplus they extract the so-called "wax" or hashish oil, which is produced with a resin from the buds and trimmings of marijuana.

In the country there are research works on the use of marijuana oils, which are legally produced in the United States and illegally trafficked to our country. These oils are combined with the liquids used in electronic cigarettes for their consumption, being that one ounce of this product has a market value of about one thousand 35colones.

The great acceptance of this type of marijuana is that its THC content is very high, showing a higher quality and taste, therefore, it has a higher price. Its production must be carried out under controlled climatic conditions, with light exposures of more than 12 hours, ventilation and agricultural products (fertilizers) suitable for its successful production and sale.

The detection of crops of this type of plants in areas of our country that do not require the use of cooling equipment is impressive, since the climatic conditions are favorable, this allows less expenditure of electricity. In some occasions it has been found after investigations the use of LP gas as a nutrient in hydroponic plantations, because it provides carbon dioxide that works as an accelerant in vegetative growth.

As for marijuana seizures, there is no marked trend, and between 2013 and 2016 there was an increase, although irregular, and from 2017 and 2018 there was a decrease in the number of seizures.

Table No. Quantity¹⁴ of marijuana seized per kilogram per 2010 year 2018

Year	Quantity (kilos)
2010	575,9
2011	1582,2
2012	3070,5
2013	4123,4
2014	12005,3
2015	6422,1
2016	12205,0
2017	7346,2
2018	6231,0

Source: Costa Rican Institute on Drugs



Marijuana consumption is due to a greater supply of the product, first, due to substantial improvements in the cost-price-quality ratio, which makes more of the drug available, at a lower price and of higher quality; and second, marijuana consumption has high levels of social acceptance, mainly among young people and adult consumers. The price of marijuana is approximately 1000 colones for about 0.25 grams of product. As a corollary on this topic, it is important to mention a jurisprudence on the cultivation of marijuana for non-commercial purposes. Between 2014 and 2015 there was an investigation carried out in the province of Alajuela where a citizen was accused of having engaged in the cultivation of cannabis sativa plants.

Due to the ruling of the Criminal Court of Alajuela (19-2016), which stated textually *"it is not possible to establish with the necessary certainty to convict, that the cultivation of cannabis sativa plants that the accused carried out on four different occasions... on the roof of his home, had the ultimate purpose of trafficking or commercialization, but in addition, neither was it accredited with certainty that Public Health was in any danger with the crops grown by the accused"*, the Public Ministry appealed before the Third Chamber.

By resolution number 481-2018 of 29 June of the Third Chamber 2018, it came to consider that for the illicit cultivation of drugs to be constituted, it requires for its configuration a purpose of trafficking or commercialization, as it declared the Appeal filed by the Public Prosecutor's Office to be unfounded.

2.1.3 drugs and precursor chemicals

In 2013, the Analytical Chemistry Section of the Judicial Investigation Agency discovered the use of six new synthetic drugs known to the police as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

These types of emerging substances have arisen due to the need of traffickers to circumvent criminal prosecution, as components of one drug are mixed with another in order to change the chemical structure to a new compound, however, their harmful effects are maintained.

Although no laboratory manufacturing this type of substance has been detected in the country (only the entry of the final product has been detected), it is necessary to point out that these substances can be manufactured practically anywhere, since all that is required is the acquisition of the precursors commonly used in the pharmaceutical industry.

Synthetic drugs are distributed in various forms such as tablets, capsules, capsules, powders and can also be obtained in liquid form, and can be consumed orally or by injection.

The drug K2 is a *synthetic cannabinoid* also known as *Spice* or *pink cocaine*. It is a chemical that has a molecular structure similar to that of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the active component present in marijuana. In many occasions it is common to see its presentation combined with some vegetable material, to confuse it with marijuana, indicating the seller that it is *synthetic marijuana*, being totally false, because they only do it to confuse or deceive the consumer. This type of drug can be consumed inhaled, injected and through aromatherapy.

Synthetic drugs are more likely to be consumed by young people due to their effects, which is why in recent years there has been an increase in seizures in Costa Rica. In this regard, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warns that *"this type of drug usually contains different types of combined ingredients and has even detected rat poison in some seizures in the United States"*.

Another substance of interest is Ketamine, an anesthetic approved for medical use in both humans and animals, also known as Special K, Vitamin K, Cat Valium. It was approved for sale in the 1990s and was intended for veterinary use only; its presentation is usually in liquid or powder form.

One of the effects of consuming Ketamine is the distortion of the visual and auditory sense in consumers, causing them to lose contact with reality. These hallucinogenic effects last between 45 minutes and 90 minutes and its sequelae

may linger for hours or even hours²⁴. This drug also causes depression, delirium, amnesia and motor function disorder.

Its consumption is by ingestion, generally combined with an alcoholic or hydrating beverage. The effect depends on the amount of drug consumed: with few doses, psychedelic experiences and a lot of energy can be had; with the consumption of large amounts of doses, an out-of-body experience or "splitting" occurs, in which a hallucinogenic experience even close to death known as "K-hole" occurs, where the person can reach a catatonic state or apparent death.

Recently, there was a seizure of bottles⁴⁹⁹ of Ketonal, a precursor substance of ketamine, coming from Nicaragua by land using public transportation services.

2.1.4. Drug trafficking routes

There are three ways to bring drugs into Costa Rica: by land, by sea and by air. The largest seizures of cocaine are those made in maritime interventions and in the coastal provinces.



Another synthetic drug is the drug *Methylenedioxymethamphetamine* (MDMA) known as ecstasy, stimulant, methamphetamine and hallucinogen, called "love drug". The presentation of this type of drug is in powder, crystals or capsules in tablet form. This drug directly affects neurons with the release of serotonin, regulating mood with respect to violent reactions, sexual state, sleep and sensitivity to pain.

Figure N° Route 4. of entry of the drug into Costa Rica



According to an analysis carried out as a result of the investigations in the different cases of drug trafficking in the country, it has been possible to determine that there are places and routes used by traffickers to move drugs from one area to another. According to the information obtained, there is a clear route of marijuana shipments from Jamaica, as well as maritime transportation of cocaine by coastal shipping to our Atlantic coast from Colombia.

Similarly, there is a massive use of maritime and air transport in the Pacific Ocean to our coasts, with specific supply points in the meantime. An important concentration of points is observed around Cocos Island.

Image N° Tracing 1. used by drug traffickers



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

In this way, the mini-cartels move in boats to obtain marijuana from Jamaica and return, there being a large marijuana transfer route, which has as its final point of entry into the country mainly through the different deltas or river mouths that exist throughout the Atlantic coast of the country, whether Sixaola, Puerto Limón and Parismina, using the bars to hide from the authorities.

Also, and to a lesser extent from the Colombian Atlantic, cocaine is trafficked along the coast using the cabotage technique. Part of this cocaine stays in the country and the other part continues its route north, always using this technique.

Along the Pacific coast, the information recovered from the investigations shows routes and a cluster of places used as routes or meeting points for supplies, drug deliveries or fuel.

It is clear that the origin of the **traces** is on a large scale from the Colombian coasts and to a lesser extent from the Ecuadorian coasts. There are traces that surround the Cocos Island sector and there are others that go more directly through the coastlines of the Panamanian coast until reaching our country.



Tracing: methodology to generate routes on a map by intersecting geographic coordinates.

The drug that is trafficked through the Pacific Ocean has as its final destination the countries of Mexico and the United States.

local consumption and as a means of payment for the logistics provided. ~~The areas identified in Costa Rica as arrival and storage points are along the entire Pacific coast, from Punta Burica, on the border with Panama, to Cabo Santa Elena, on the border with Nicaragua.~~

To a large extent, traffickers (as is the case on the Atlantic coast) use speedboats with high-capacity engines. Mini-submarine (semi-submersible) and "torpedo" boats have also been detected and seized on these coasts, which have the capacity to transport several tons of drugs.

The traffickers also use camouflaged boats or local fishermen to supply them with fuel, water and food in order to continue their route. It has been corroborated by investigation that the same fishermen use their boats to transfer the drugs to a storage place and to other boats further north. Another maritime modality for the shipment, mainly of narcotics to the European continent, is through the alteration of the containers that transport Costa Rican products for export, with which it has been possible to detect the modification of the original load by introducing drugs in it, this can occur from the production plants (fruits and vegetables), as well as the alteration can occur in the loads once placed in the farms or shipping companies after the twinning of marches, or with the extraction of the pins of the hinges so as not to alter the marches. In some cases, the owners of licit cargoes are unaware of the modification of the illicit content of the cargo.

Upon arrival in the destination country, the criminal group is in charge of extracting the drug before the client of the shipment removes its contents. However, there have been cases in which the logistics have failed and it is the owner of the cargo who removes the product and finds the drug inside his merchandise, notifying the police authorities.

With respect to land transport, it should be noted that Costa Rica has two borders: Paso Canoas to the south with Panama and Peñas Blancas to the north with Nicaragua, both of which are used to transport drugs. Traffickers smuggling drugs overland from Panama use several storage areas along the entire border. To do so, they take advantage of the limited territorial delimitation and the porosity of the border to cross it through secondary roads and clandestine crossings.

Traffickers use several ways to move the drugs, one of them is by means of transporters who take the cargo by land along the Inter-American highway on their way north, where the means of transport usually used is the heavy-duty truck ("trailers" or vans) or smaller trucks. Drugs have been seized in trucks with false tanks in the fuel tank, on the wheels, on the roof and other places on the vehicle.

Another way of transporting drugs is in light cargo-type vehicles duly equipped with hidden compartments, double bottoms or modifications that, through manual, electrical or hydraulic systems, allow the drugs to be concealed in a timely manner. Many of these vehicles come modified from Panama or are modified in our country and are then transported either to the capital or en route to the north of the country.

Another method used is the public bus service, which is used to a lesser extent and in small quantities, where passengers hide the drugs in their luggage or the drivers lend themselves to transport the drugs.



At the domestic level, drug transit sometimes takes the form of "express" or door-to-door delivery, where the same criminal group is responsible for delivering medium-sized shipments to the distributor, thus providing a more secure service.

However, some of the drugs that have been introduced into the country are transported by land to the north to cross the border with Nicaragua. The drugs destined for the northern countries of the continent can cross the border through the area of Los Chiles and Upala or any other pass that allows its transfer.

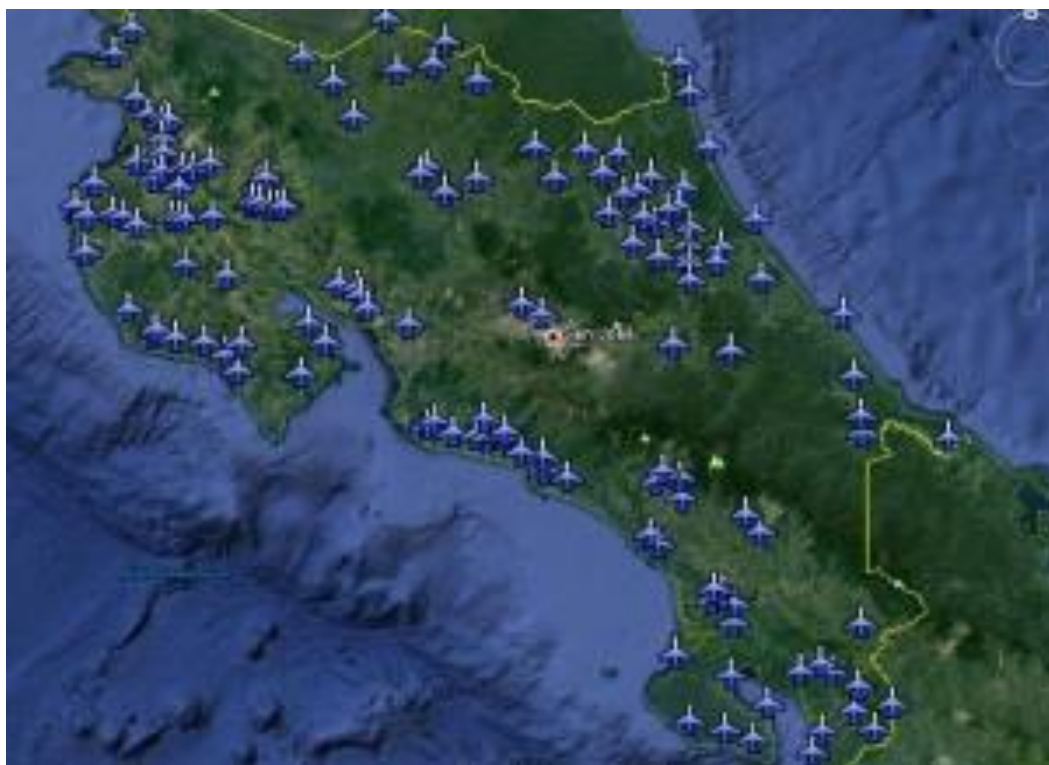
It should be noted that smaller quantities of drugs can be transported through these areas, but for large quantities only the Inter-American highway through Peñas Blancas or the Chiles (Tablillas) pass is used, which opened in May of last year. 2015.

In addition, traffickers use the air as a means of transporting cocaine. The main way to transport drugs in large quantities is by using private aircraft (ultralights), which have been previously modified to be able to hold more drugs and have more fuel to extend the flight capacity.

Due to the characteristics of this type of flight, it causes the aircraft (ultralight) to disappear from the radar, where it presumably descends on clandestine runways in order to load/unload drugs or fuel and resumes its trajectory until it reaches the destination point where it lands regularly.

Below is a map showing the different legal and illegal airstrips located in our country.

Image N° Legal and clandestine airstrips² in Costa Rica



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

As a result of this phenomenon, Costa Rica began to register the use of clandestine airstrips and reports of irregular overflights of small planes and helicopters. Investigations involving the analysis of air routes reveal light aircraft with a carrying capacity of around a 300kilogram700 of drugs each.

As for the aforementioned helicopters, they use clandestine heliports previously built in mountainous sectors where the area is cleared to allow the loading and unloading of drugs and money, as well as for fueling.



RESEARCH CASE

Our country faces cases linked to heliports and clandestine airstrips detected throughout the national territory, which serve within the supply chain.

In 2017, the Judicial Investigation Agency dismantled an organization dedicated to international drug trafficking, specifically cocaine, which involved Mexicans, Colombians and Costa Ricans. The operation was developed with well-structured logistics and intelligence: the Mexicans bought cocaine from a Colombian criminal group, who brought the drug to Costa Rican territory by sea.

In this way, the Mexicans hired a group of nationals to provide them with logistics and intelligence, while the Costa Ricans were in charge of carrying out a preliminary study to ensure the transfer of the drugs to Guanacaste territory, as well as the analysis of clandestine airstrips to be used by the Mexicans to transport the drugs to their territory in small planes.

Once the airstrip was well identified, the Mexican plane would arrive and, without turning off the engines, they would load the cargo and make the respective payment to leave the clandestine landing site in a matter of minutes. In these exchanges, goods of up to 500 kilos of cocaine were moved and could have a frequency of one to two operations per month. This dismantling reduced the number of sightings of this type of aircraft.

This shows that the Colombians are not currently taking the risk of transporting the drugs to the north of the continent and that it is up to the buyer to coordinate their transport and provide security, while the Colombians are mainly responsible for their production.

Part of the result of these practices has been a considerable number of confiscated or damaged airplanes, which are involved in accidents due to lack of knowledge of the national geography, overweight cargo and, on some occasions, due to the bad weather conditions in which they are forced to land. Many of these accidents involve Mexican nationals as pilots.

This fact reveals two aspects to highlight: first, that criminal organizations seek to ensure the logistical chain of collection and transfer, which maximizes profits by not having to pay for the work of an intermediary; and second, they ensure that the shipment arrives complete and of the quality acquired, this being a kind of "chain of custody" within the criminal group.

Finally, another modality used on a small scale is through commercial flights, where people known as "donkeys" transport narcotics in their suitcases, eggs in their stomachs or adhesions on their bodies.

They also often carry drugs in cans, books, electronic devices, cosmetic cases or handicrafts, among others. These drugs are also destined for North American countries as well as Europe.

2.1.5. Money laundering

Money laundering is the activity in which an individual or legal entity executes criminal acts where it hides or disguises economic gains from illicit activities. This crime is regulated in our country with the Law 8204.



For money laundering to occur, the profits obtained by the criminal group must derive from a primary crime, which may be a crime against public administration, drug trafficking, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, arms trafficking, kidnapping, pimping, extortion and others. In our legislation these are known as predicate offenses.

The Law Against Organized Crime (Law 8754) contemplates as a possibility in the Contentious Administrative and Civil Tax Court a mechanism to combat organized crime, called emerging capital.

In order for an investigation for emerging capital to be initiated, there must be a criminal investigation for a crime that has led to evidence of emerging wealth or increases without lawful cause.

One of the ways to hide money from illegal acts involves the participation of third parties, who collaborate with the distraction or concealment of the money, such as **front men**, who are used to register the assets in their name and who are not directly linked to the legitimizer.



A **straw man** is a person who lends his name to appear as the owner of someone else's property acquired with illicit money.

Another way that criminal groups use to hide assets and money acquired through illicit activities is through the use of the

The formation of legal entities or corporations, which they disguise as if they were carrying out a legal activity, allowing them to move money and hide assets.

In the police functions it has been possible to determine a profile of persons dedicated to legitimizing money, since they show a considerable economic growth in a short period of time, presenting changes in their lifestyle and acquiring movable and immovable property with a high capital gain. These people show gradual changes, such as constant leisure trips (national and international), being that it is not possible to attribute these possibilities to them because of the salary they earn from the known activity.

2.2. Arms trafficking

The national context with respect to arms trafficking has changed in the last five years due to exogenous situations that have modified the fluctuations of the illegal market, both in the north and south of the country. Five years ago, the flow of arms came from the north to the south, while the payment flowed in the opposite direction. It is worth noting that at the time the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) began to pay arms for drugs. Today, however, the phenomenon is coming from both sides of the border (north and south).

Likewise, the use of high caliber long arms began to be used more frequently during the present decade, and one fact derived from the increase in the settling of scores was the use of assault rifles.

There is an important phenomenon to note regarding the illegal commercialization of arms from the north of the continent, and that is the fact that there is a greater profit if they are sold in the northern triangle market (Central America) than in the national market, since there is a greater demand, while in Costa Rica the market is smaller. Despite this, although to a lesser extent, these countries are still a supplier of arms to the country. The entry of these shipments is through the Atlantic, by sea, in boats that arrive in the province of Limón, and these flows are regularly carried out with small quantities of arms.

Two facts that have come to move the arms business in the region come from the south, such as the peace and disarmament process of the FARC, which implies that the weapons used in the armed conflict must be redistributed in other latitudes. Apart from this, there is the case of Panama that signed a suspension of the importation of firearms for permitted use, which was extended by the Panamanian authorities on December 6, 2018 for nine more months. This situation overvalued the price of weapons, creating a demand supplied in part from Costa Rica due to the proximity.

It should be noted that investigations have been carried out in our country due to the acquisition of arms by organizations that do not register them in the country and then they are sent back to the south of the continent. There have even been cases of assaults on public and private companies where the main target is arms shipments.

Arms trafficking in the country mainly involves weapons such as revolvers, pistols and shotguns. At the national level, the licit control of firearms, ammunition and explosives is the responsibility of the General Directorate of Armament of the Ministry of Public Security; however, since arms trafficking is an illegal activity, our country must rely on tools provided by Interpol and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Both systems make it possible to keep track of the arms reported by member countries as registered or stolen; however, many of these systems depend on the willingness of the countries to include the information in a timely manner.



RESEARCH CASE

In 2013, as a result of a donation from the Canadian Embassy, the use of the Automated Ballistics Comparison System (IBIS) began, which allows to store and compare massively through images of casings and bullets the ballistic evidence of all the different cases entered into a database of the same system.

With this tool it is possible to link different cases that have no known connection and through the comparison made at the database level different reports can be linked, in order to direct the investigation towards more complex criminal structures.

The police use of this tool has already borne fruit. As an example, twelve cases are presented where there is a reference to two firearms, Glock and Smith & Wesson, which are related to the crime of weapon handling. Wesson, which are related to the crime of weapon actuation, are taken as a pattern (sample of the weapon) and when analyzed are linked to eleven cases of the years 2015 and 2016, for the crimes of homicide, injuries, weapon actuation, damage, assault and battery in the sectors of Heredia, Limón, Cartago, Moravia and Curridabat, a situation that leads to the formulation of a hypothesis about an illegal arms rental market, since the only link or link between all the cases (with mutually exclusive crimes) is the use of percussion ammunition with the same weapons as a common denominator.

According to information obtained from the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs, a total of 791 firearms related to drug trafficking 2017 have been seized since the year 2006 date. There is an irregular behavior in terms of the number of seizures per year, registering a decrease for the year 2017 compared to the previous year (there is no data available for 2018).

Table N° Firearms 15. seized linked to drug trafficking by year, Costa Rica 2006-2017

Year	Quantity
2006	28
2007	46
2008	61
2009	83
2010	86
2011	68
2012	62



Year	Quantity
2013	75
2014	82
2015	50
2016	88
2017	62
Total	791

Source: Costa Rican Institute on Drugs

2.3. Trafficking in works of art and cultural property

According to UNODC (2012), trafficking in works of art and cultural property is an emerging crime associated with organized crime. As has been happening in other countries, the illegal flow of these items has increased in recent years.

Many of the cultural pieces and works of art that exist in the world belong to a cultural heritage that recounts human history and its evolution. Countries such as Ecuador, Mexico, France and Germany have been affected by the trafficking of this type of pieces, being in some cases Costa Rica a country of transit or destination of the works.

In Costa Rica, Law 6730 on National Archaeological Heritage defines that only the National Museum can possess pre-Columbian or culturally valuable goods. Many of these pieces are made of ceramic or stone materials, such as ceramic polychrome vessels, ornamental objects with animal and human images made of gold and jade, as well as stone sculptures and metates. Many of these objects have their origin in Nicoya, the Southern Zone and the Caribbean slope.

The archaeologists of the National Museum are in charge of carrying out the respective analysis and reports regarding the authenticity of the pieces, as well as their safekeeping and conservation. The sustained increase in the number of pre-Columbian pieces recovered is impressive, with the amount recorded from the previous year doubling year after year (for 2018, only data from the first half of the year is recorded).

Table N° 16. Pre-Columbian artifacts recovered in Costa Rica as of 2016-2018*.

Year	Quantity
2016	118
2017	222
2018*	268

Source: National Museum

*first semester

At the international level, there are institutions that work hard against this crime, such as the International Council of Museums (ICOM), which has an International Observatory on illicit trafficking in cultural property and has an international cooperation platform that disseminates information and promotes collaboration in the fight against this crime.

The Judicial Investigation Agency is investigating the sale and possession of cultural pieces nationwide. Based on investigation works and controlled purchases, their seizure has been achieved. There are also raids in which unavoidable findings of this type of articles are made.

It is important to highlight the efforts of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, which in 2016 initiated a capacity building project to fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, which covers different countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.

As for works of art, there is a limitation in their control, since at the country level there is no database that allows control and authenticity to be given to all existing works, limiting at the registration level the intervention on this type of traffic.

The Judicial Investigation Agency lacks a specialized unit dedicated to investigations of theft of works of art and cultural property. This greatly limits the technical competence for this type of investigations, whose particularities and peculiarities are very specific and require expertise within this branch.

2.4. Trafficking in exotic and endangered animals

The great biodiversity that our country has as a result of its geographical location favors the trafficking of exotic animal species, as well as endangered species, while facilitating the import of other animals (generally reptiles) whose value is highly prized. According to information provided by the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (Senasa), almost 7 billion dollars are annually mobilized in the world for the illegal trade of wild fauna and flora.

At the international level, alerts are constantly received through Interpol to inform national authorities about new types of flora and fauna being trafficked and the corresponding investigation on national soil.

A 2017 total of complaints 9940 for investigation have been received from year to 2012 year detailing facts that infringe the special laws that protect our flora and fauna.



Our country signed 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), whose purpose is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. This representation was assigned to the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC).

Table N°17 . Cases filed for environmental crimes with the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judicial Investigation Organism as of 2012 December 31, 2009. 2017

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Infringement of forestry law	1228	1137	1231	1073	1003	1066
Violation of wildlife conservation law	338	276	259	177	135	137
Infringement of special laws	388	294	333	314	243	308
Total	1954	1707	1823	1564	1381	1511

Source: Directorate of Planning, Judicial Branch

Among the most sought-after species are exotic animals that are the product of special orders for collectors and private exhibitions, a situation that motivates illegal trafficking due to the high price paid for them.

There have been reports of animals entering the country, mainly reptiles such as snakes, geckos (*Gekkota*) and Nile monitor lizards (*Varanus niloticus*, of African origin), the latter reaching up to two meters in length as adults; these animals are transported alive, but few manage to survive when they reach the destination.

Image N° Nile Varano3. decomissioned



Nile Varano decomissioned that died shortly thereafter.
Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

As for exports, there have been cases in which animals such as ants, beetles, spiders, and butterflies have been seized illegally leaving the country; these insects travel dead and are treated with products such as chloroform to preserve them. Traffickers use package courier services legally offered by national and international companies to send and receive exotic and endangered animals.

Another type of illicit export associated with endangered and exotic animals are sea cucumbers and shark fins, which are dehydrated and transported for consumption, mainly in Asia, where they are prepared as aphrodisiac foods. Our investigations have recorded seizures of more shark fins500 and a male of oriental origin was arrested.

The flora of our country presents a great attraction, mainly for foreigners who visit us due to its great diversity. Recently there was a case where three Dutchmen were arrested with miniature orchids hidden in jars, extracted from our forests. The value of the stolen goods was valued at \$226016.

Image N° Miniature orchids4.

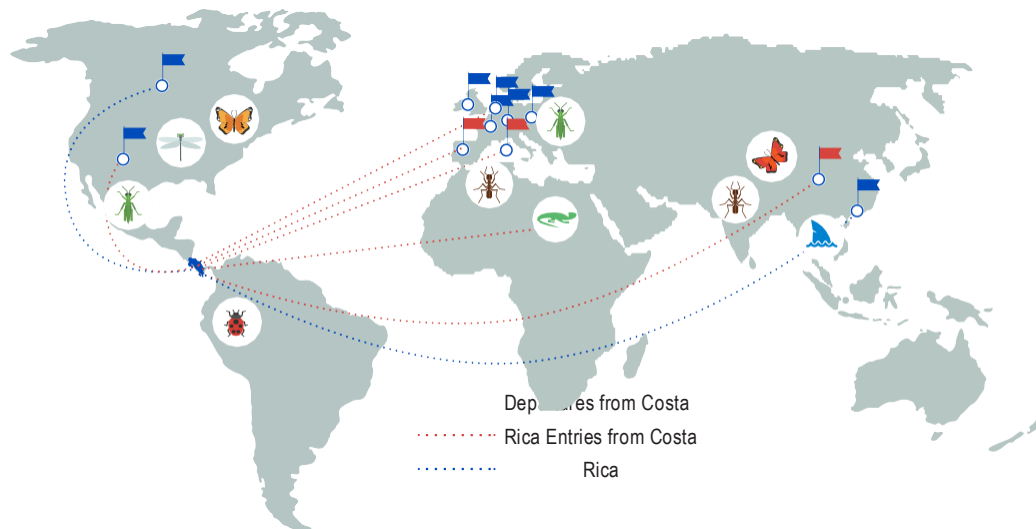


Seized miniature orchids.
Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Another product such as timber, in this case Cocobolo (*Dalbergia retusa*), reports legal and regulated trafficking at the national level. The northern region of our country has the highest production of these woods, which is favored by its atmospheric conditions; however, irregular trafficking occurs through the manipulation of control guides, which allows marketing outside the law.

As for international trafficking, the movement of this product out of the country is restricted. There have been cases of illegal exports, either by altering documents or by concealing the cargo, and there is trafficking of timber from Central America to Asian countries where trade is legal, so it is allowed to enter the country without major restrictions.

Figure No. Route5. used for trafficking in exotic and endangered animals



Countries used in the animal trafficking route: Canada, United States, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, France, Spain, Germany, China, Hong Kong, Malta
Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

2.5. Human trafficking and smuggling

The crime of **human trafficking** is typified in the Costa Rican Penal 172Code and in law number 9095, "Law Against Human Trafficking and Creation of the National Coalition Against the Illicit Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking (CONATT)". This law covers all forms of exploitation indicated in the protocol to prevent, repress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Law 9095 created several articles that filled a punitive gap in the Penal Code, specifically in the crime of trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation. In addition, it empowers the victim through the use of the civil action for restitution to request at the appropriate procedural moment an economic compensation against the trafficker.

2.5.1. Trafficking in persons

The two most common forms of human trafficking in Costa Rica are, coincidentally, the sexual exploitation of adult women and the labor exploitation of men and women.

Article 172 of the Penal Code establishes that anyone who promotes, facilitates or favors the entry into or exit from the country, the movement within the national territory of persons of any sex to perform one or more acts of prostitution or to subject them to exploitation (sexual servitude) shall be sentenced for trafficking in persons, these being the guiding verbs that identify the criminal typology and differentiate it from pimping.



Human trafficking: Traffickers are individuals who subject third parties to labor, sexual exploitation or slavery. Traffickers are also those who engage in the illicit commercialization of organs and irregular adoption.

Human trafficking: organizations or individuals dedicated to moving people from one country to another, evading immigration controls.



In the case of sexual exploitation of adult women, this type of activity occurs mainly in the tourist areas of the country, such as beaches with a lot of nightlife, because there are individuals who, through the ruse of hiring women to work in bars or commercial establishments, mislead potential victims, when in reality they are seeking to subject them to prostitution or to perform erotic activities.

Another form of deception is when a person known as a pimp takes advantage of the victim's vulnerability and deceitfully offers them large sums of money to be escort ladies (known as "escorts") and in reality they are hired to prostitute themselves, that is, to have paid sexual relations, which are controlled by the pimp.

The most common victims of this type of activity are women, both nationals and foreigners (including Nicaraguans, Colombians, Dominicans and other nationalities). In Costa Rica, the largest number of human trafficking victims come from Central America and the Caribbean.

Labor exploitation occurs mainly in rural areas, especially in agricultural areas and also with domestic employees. In agricultural areas, during the coffee harvesting and sugarcane cutting seasons, and on cattle ranches, businessmen or ranchers hire people and put them to work long hours without any protection or social benefits, taking advantage of the vulnerability and need of the victims.

The most likely victims of labor exploitation in our country are Nicaraguans, since these people enter the country illegally, through the clandestine trails or roads that exist on the northern border, being this very easy to do because of the few existing security controls and due to the economic need that Nicaraguans have, then they are exploited by farm owners to use them in agricultural work.

Likewise, domestic employees or domestic workers are also used to work long hours and without social guarantees. Among these types of activities are people of different nationalities, however, the most affected are Nicaraguan nationals because many of them are illegal in the country.

The OIJ has identified few cases of labor exploitation. From the year to the 2015 year, the 2018 institution managed to investigate cases³² for the crime of sexual trafficking and pimping and only 5 cases of labor trafficking of persons. Also, during the same period, the OIJ recorded complaints³¹ under investigation as possible cases of human trafficking.

In the year Costa 2016, Rica joined the Blue Heart Campaign against human trafficking. With millions of victims of human trafficking worldwide, the UNODC-led campaign aims to mobilize governments, civil society organizations, the media and the private sector to expose and combat this serious crime.

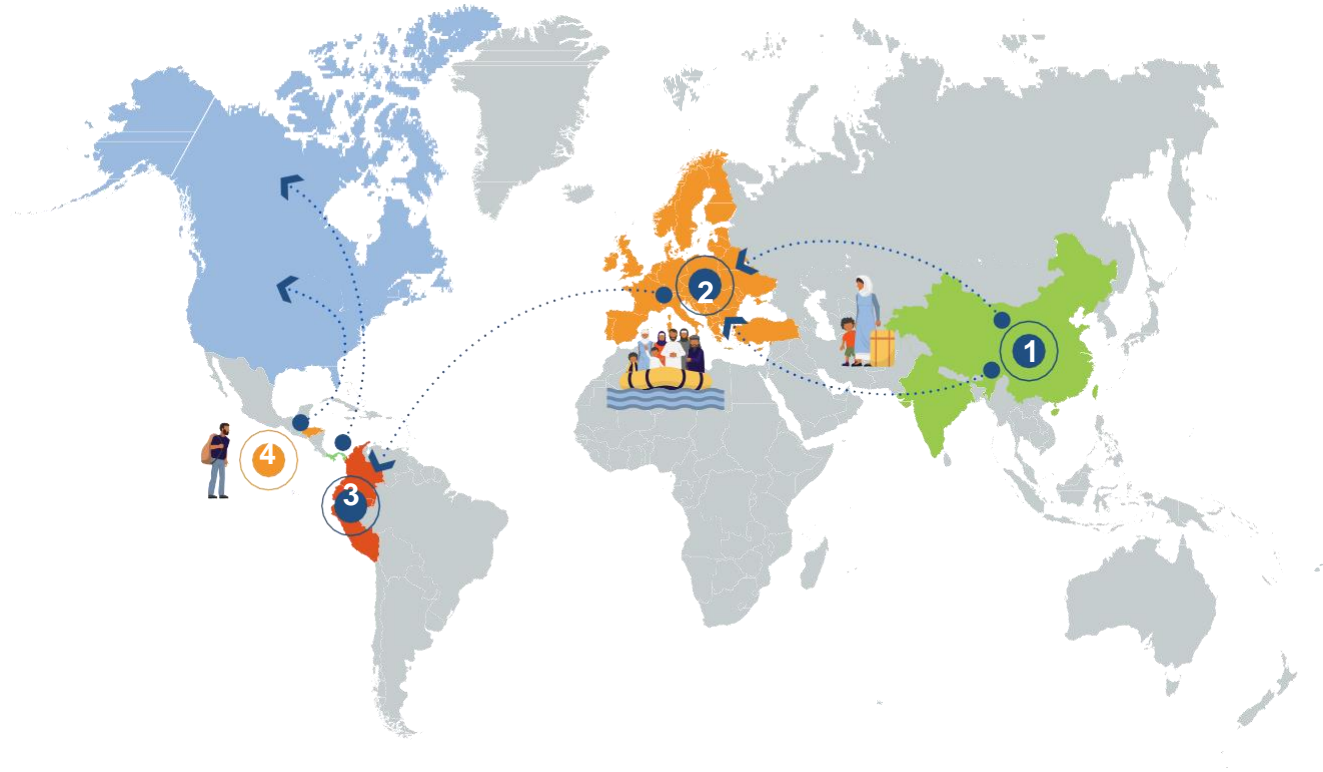
2.5.2. Human trafficking

Migrants smuggled globally through Costa Rica come mainly from the African continent, as well as from South Asia and China. In the case of the Americas, migrants mainly come from Cuba and Haiti.

Investigations have identified a large flow of migrants of Chinese nationality entering the country by air, using false passports and visas. It has been determined that there are different routes for the trafficking of Chinese nationals, using a bridge from India, passing through Europe and South America (via Ecuador, Peru or Colombia).

After this journey, they arrive by air to our territory and are then transported by land, advancing to the north of the continent (United States or Canada).

Figure N° Route6. used for human trafficking



1. Route used by migrants from Asia to Europe
2. Route used by migrants from Europe to South America
3. Route used by migrants from South America to Costa Rica
4. Route used by migrants from Costa Rica to Central and North America

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

In the case of Caribbean migrants, there is a dichotomy regarding the human flows encountered, with Cubans seeking to continue their journey to the United States. To do so, they arrive by air to South American countries that share some kind of proximity or friendship ties, such as Ecuador, and from there they make the journey by land to Costa Rica.

However, there is evidence that Cubans have little intention of remaining in the country and their ultimate goal is to take advantage of the U.S. "wet foot, dry foot" policy. However, with the repeal of this policy at the end of the year, there 2017, has been a decrease in these flows.

The other most visible Caribbean flow is of Haitian nationals who come to the country with the intention of continuing on to the north of the continent. Some decide to stay and thus "prosper" economically through informal jobs or under working conditions that are disadvantageous for this population. Another phenomenon detected is the flow of people originating from the African continent, being that during the study period an estimate of up to one thousand 20Africans crossing the country to North America has been detected. This became more evident in November 2015, after the implementation of a border closure policy in Nicaragua in which the permanence in the country of nationals from Somalia, Ethiopia and even the Asian continent was evidenced.

We cannot overlook the fact that many Venezuelan nationals have entered the country as a result of the humanitarian crisis that the southern country is experiencing. This phenomenon is very similar to the one that occurred in the 1980s-1990s with Colombian nationals. Although it is true that the profile of these people is generally that of refugees or tourists, it is a phenomenon very similar to the one that occurred in the 1980s-1990s with Colombian nationals.

vulnerable group that can be exploited by traffickers or traffickers.

CHAPTER 3

VIOLENT CRIMES AND CRIMES RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

- **Homicides**
- **Extortion and coercion**
- **Kidnapping for ransom**



VIOLENT CRIMES AND CRIMES RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

3.1. Homicides

The impact on homicides in Costa Rica lies mainly in the expansion of the distribution and commercialization of local drug trafficking, known as narcomenudeo. This leads to a large number of addicts and violence is more intimidating due to the effects and dependencies caused by drugs.

Some sectors such as Limón, Pavas, León XIII, Hatillo, Uruca (San José), Guápiles, Desamparados and San Sebastián have been the places with the highest number of homicides registered in the country, where the motive is mainly a **settling of scores** and in which most of the victims have been Costa Ricans, however, in recent years there has been an increase in cases where the victims are of Colombian nationality.



Settlement of accounts: event in which an individual pays with his or her life an acquired debt, whether personal or of a third party

Table N°18 . Number of victims of intentional homicide by nationality as of 20142018*.

Nationality	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Costa Rica	391	453	451	514	484	2293
Nicaragua	61	71	86	62	63	343
Colombia	5	7	8	9	11	40
Panama	4	6	6	6	0	22
U.S.A.	2	4	0	0	3	9

*The first 5 positions are listed Source:
Judicial Investigation Organism

The prevalence of intentional homicides in Costa Rica has shown an upward trend since 2014, when the country registered a total of 477 victims, and from that moment on, the increase in the number of victims has been recorded as follows:

Table N° Prevalence19. of victims of intentional homicide at the national level as of December 31, 2008. 20142018

Year	Quantity
2014	477
2015	557
2016	578
2017	603
2018	585

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The year registered 2015 victims 557, with an increase in deaths 80 compared to the previous year, the 2016 increase in victims was of people 21, with an increase 2017 in deaths 57825, registering victims 603, for the year there 2018 was a deceleration that meant a decrease in victims 18. In other words, from one year to 2014 the next there 2018 was an increase in the number of deaths 108 from intentional homicides in the country. The rate per thousand 100 inhabitants for the year was 2018 11.7%.



**Table No. Intentional homicide rate²⁰. per inhabitant 100.000at2014
the end of the year 2018**

Period	Intentional homicides	Inhabitants	Rate per thousand 100inhabitants
2014	477	4.773.119	9,9
2015	557	4.832.521	11,5
2016	578	4.890.372	11,8
2017	603	4.947.481	12,2
2018	585	5.003.393	11,7

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The increase in homicides in Costa Rica has also brought with it multiple and more violent deaths. Usually one victim was registered per event; nowadays, it is increasingly common for two or more people to be killed. Being that since al2015 there 2018have been events106 where two people have died, for this same period there have been 25 events with three deaths each; with four deaths per event there have been 6 cases, one for each year and 3 in 2018; the years 2016 and 2017 each recorded two events where five people died and in 2016 there was unfortunately one event where people6 died.

**Table N° Number of 21.cases with multiple victims
Costa Rica, 2014-2018**

Number of victims					
Year	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
2014	46	9	0	0	0
2015	21	4	1	0	0
2016	29	4	1	2	1
2017	29	8	1	2	0
2018	27	9	3	0	0

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

This situation has led to increased levels of violence in recent years in Costa Rica due to factors such as debts for money in drug trafficking, loss of drugs (tumbonazos or police seizures) or control of territorial groups for the sale of narcotics.

Since 2014, there has been an annual increase in cases of intentional homicides, which reflects the use of murder to resolve conflicts. Many of these deaths use people who execute and leave the scene in a more agile manner.

As mentioned in section 1.1.4, violence has left cruel episodes in the country and currently there are cases in which the deceased have dismembered bodies, in bags, burned and with signs of torture, many of these techniques imitate the cartels that exist in other countries. These organizations use this type of techniques in order to leave a message of "respect" and intimidation to the rest of the members of the organization.

These conflicts caused by drug trafficking cause the death of innocent people, after being affected collaterally in clashes between organizations. In 2016, the country registered 7 deaths in this way, being doubled this amount for 2016 where2017 a total of 15collateral victims were registered and for 2016 decreased2018 to victims.10



Table No. Number22. of homicide victims linked to drug trafficking at2015 the end of the year 2018

Year	Quantity
2015	126
2016	126
2017	151
2018	190

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

These conditions of violence are more visible when the phenomenon of homicide is studied by comparing rates per 1,100,000 inhabitants that allow "equalizing" one territory with respect to another, in order to have a reference parameter.

As an example, despite the fact that the province of Limón has homicide victims 536 in years 5, if compared to San José which for this same period registered homicide victims 1128, it could be misleading to believe that the Atlantic zone has a lower number of homicides, however, when comparing the data on an equal basis using the rate per 100 thousand inhabitants, it can be seen that the province of Limón doubles the number of homicide victims that the province of San José has per thousand 100 inhabitants.

Table No. Intentional homicide rate23. per inhabitant100.000, by province as of December 31, 2005. 20142018

Province	Rate 2014	Rate 2015	Rate 2016	Rate 2017	Rate 2018
San Jose	12.9	16.2	15.2	13.6	12.2
Alajuela	5.5	5.9	5.5	9.3	9.2
Carthage	5.0	7.3	7.6	9.1	11.2
Heredia	4.6	7.5	6.4	7.1	7.8
Guanacaste	6.7	6.6	10.8	12.7	5.7
Puntarenas	11.5	9.8	10.8	9.4	11.7
Lemon	22.4	22.4	26.4	25.4	25.3
Total	10.0	11.5	11.8	12.2	11.7

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Likewise, if this comparison is made more atomized on the basis of the smallest administrative division of the country, there are two specific districts in which the homicide rate increases up to five times the national rate, with values that exist in other countries such as Venezuela, El Salvador, Jamaica and Honduras.

Table N°24 . Intentional homicide rate per inhabitant100.000, according to districts with the highest incidence as of December 31, 2007. 20142018

District	Rate 2014	Rate 2015	Rate 2016	Rate 2017	Rate 2018
Lemon	45.37	61.62	69.82	45.53	61.89
Leo XIII	88.65	65.45	75.04	47.43	36.28

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



3.2. Extortion and coercion

Among the types of crimes related to drug trafficking in our country are extortion and coercion, which have been on the rise since last year, 2015, causing concern among the population.

Many of these criminal organizations use a front as a subterfuge to hide criminal activity and to make capital movements by lending money in an easy and agile way, so that no administrative procedures or documents are required to support the debtor's solvency.

A novel mode of operation is known as "gota a gota" lending, which consists of contacting citizens who need money quickly to cover their needs, and on a false promise of help they manage to get them to accept their conditions. Once the debt is acquired, the credit conditions change unilaterally, adding usurious interest and making the credit conditions unconscionable, which makes it impossible to cancel the debt.

These groups carry out extortion and coercion for collection, including even deprivation of liberty and aggression to show their power and achieve the payment of their usurious interest, plus the borrowed capital.



RESEARCH CASE

In 2018, an organization led by brothers of Lebanese descent was arrested for the crimes of coercion, extortion and threats. This criminal structure was dedicated to making "gota a gota" loans with expensive interest, using as collection modalities intimidation with firearms, holding them, beating them and threatening the family nucleus.

One of his victims testified in court that he was taken to a gym in San Rafael de Escazú and members of the organization took him to an office, then one of its members showed up and punched him in the stomach. Subsequently, another member of the criminal group entered and threatened him that he had to pay the arrears on his loan, causing multiple blows to his face, head and limbs, leaving the victim collapsed in the office where he was finally abandoned.

As a result of this beating, the victim had a disability of one month due to the injuries reported in the legal medical report, with craniocerebral traumas, contusions and ankle injuries.

Another form of territorial control used by these organized crime structures is extortion through "toll collection" from business owners or cab drivers who work in the areas where they sell drugs.

This behavior is imitated by criminal groups in Colombia. In this modality, the criminals periodically (either for weeks or days) extort money from certain businessmen or people who work in the territory in exchange for letting them continue to work or travel through the area.



Toll: fee charged by a criminal organization to allow the movement of people and vehicles in a certain place, as well as businesses and workers in the area, in order to avoid committing a crime against them.



Table No. of complaints²⁵. of coercion, Costa Rica as of December 31, 2008 20142018

Year	Quantity
2014	19
2015	56
2016	70
2017	73
2018	128

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Table N° Complaints²⁶. of extortion, Costa Rica as of December 31, 2008 20142018

Year	Quantity
2014	146
2015	251
2016	437
2017	334
2018	414

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

3.3. Kidnapping for ransom

Since the year 20002014, a total of incidents 53investigated by the Judicial Investigation Agency for the crime of kidnapping for ransom have been 2018,recorded in Costa Rica. The country does not register a marked trend for these years; however, it is possible to note that the levels of violence are stronger for the years and2017 years and the number of kidnappings for ransom. 2018.

The highest incidence of kidnappings in the country occurred in the years and 2015period2016,, with 15 and 14 cases, respectively. The common denominator of many kidnappings is the recovery of money lost as a result of drug trafficking.

Table No. Number²⁷. of extortive kidnappings reported to the Judicial Investigation Organism as of December 31, 2009. 20142018

Year	Quantity
2014	5
2015	15
2016	14
2017	8
2018	11

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



Despite the official statistics, there are at least two known cases of kidnappings related to debts resulting from illegal activities in which the family members decide not to count on the support of the judicial authorities and are the ones who negotiate with the extortionists.

The organized crime structures detected in the country rely on intimidation to extort money from the kidnapped person's relatives, using proof of life methods, such as telephone calls, photographs, videos and voice messages, where it is possible to show the force with which they hold the victims and the torture methods applied.

Some of the cases registered in the country have ended with the death of the kidnapped person, mainly these victims are involved in drug trafficking, money laundering and others. The conflicts begin as a result of the collection of a debt, whether it is for the loss of a drug shipment or money, or even for disloyalty to the criminal group.

Criminal organizations use this type of violent acts to recover money or drugs that "belong" to the organization and at the same time serve as a method of intimidation and a message to the rest of the criminal group.



RESEARCH CASE

In the year 2018, country registered in the canton of San Ramón the appearance of a body in a public street, which was decapitated, wrapped in sheets, tied by hands and feet.

After the investigations, the victim was duly identified, being a Colombian national, who lived in Costa Rica, specifically in the province of San José. In the investigative process it was possible to prove that the victim was deprived of her freedom two days before the body was found.

For the commission of this act, the participation of Colombian, Panamanian and Costa Rican nationals was determined, who during the time the victim was deprived of liberty before his death, applied tortures which were documented in images and videos, which were later sent to the victim's relatives, who were in Colombia, so that they would give money to avoid executing the victim.

CHAPTER 4 COMMON CRIMES

- **Property crimes**
- **Crimes against tourists**

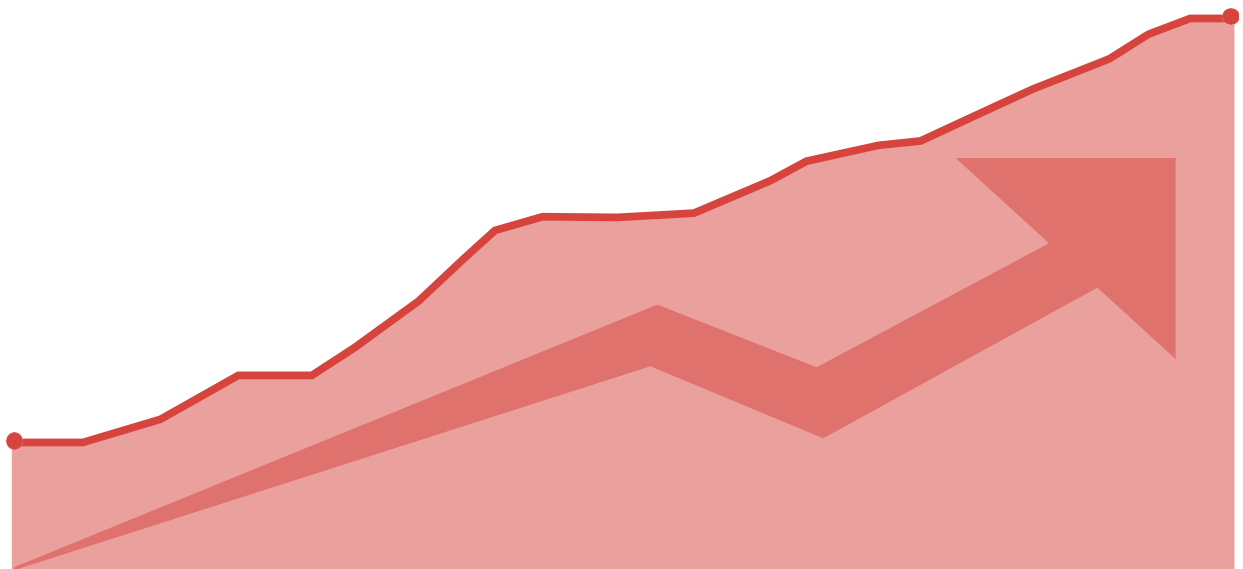
COMMON CRIMES

4.1. Property crimes

The 2018 Judicial Investigation Organism reported an increase of more than one thousand 55 complaints, going from 46,410 in 2003 to 101,733 in 2018, for a percentage change of 119.2%. In the last year of study, a total of 101,733 complaints were filed at the national level, with a daily average of 279.

An important aspect to visualize is the increase in the number of complaints over time, as it is recorded in a staggered manner, for example: from year to year 2003 the increase was only 8.83%, but from year to year 2008 the increase was 49.97% and from year to year 2013 the increase recorded is 34.39%, of the three periods indicated above, the one with the highest increase was in the period from year 2008 to year 2012.

Graph N° 1. Complaints filed with the Judicial Investigation Organism as of December 31, 2009. 2003-2018



Quantity	46410	48552	49557	50878	50508	61884	71505	72714	75337	75696	83943	85717	87035	94731	98130	101733
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

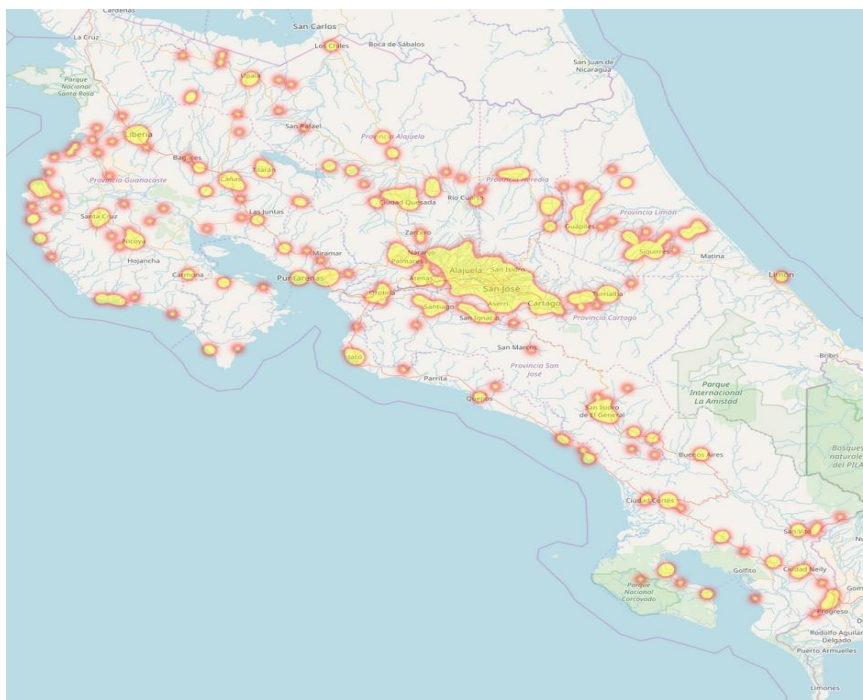
Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Analyzing the information according to the geographic distribution of Costa Rica, it can be determined that the province with the highest number of complaints registered historically has been the province of San José, where 40% of the total number of complaints are registered, followed by the province of Alajuela with 15%, Puntarenas in third place with 12%, Heredia and Limón with 9%, with Cartago and Guanacaste being the provinces with the lowest number of complaints with 8% and 7%, respectively.

The following image shows a heat or density map, which allows to graphically represent the concentration of crimes by zones or geographic areas of the country. These maps are useful for the analysis of data for investigations and interpretation of the reports that enter the Judicial Investigation Organism, detailing in a better way the conglomerates of criminal incidence.



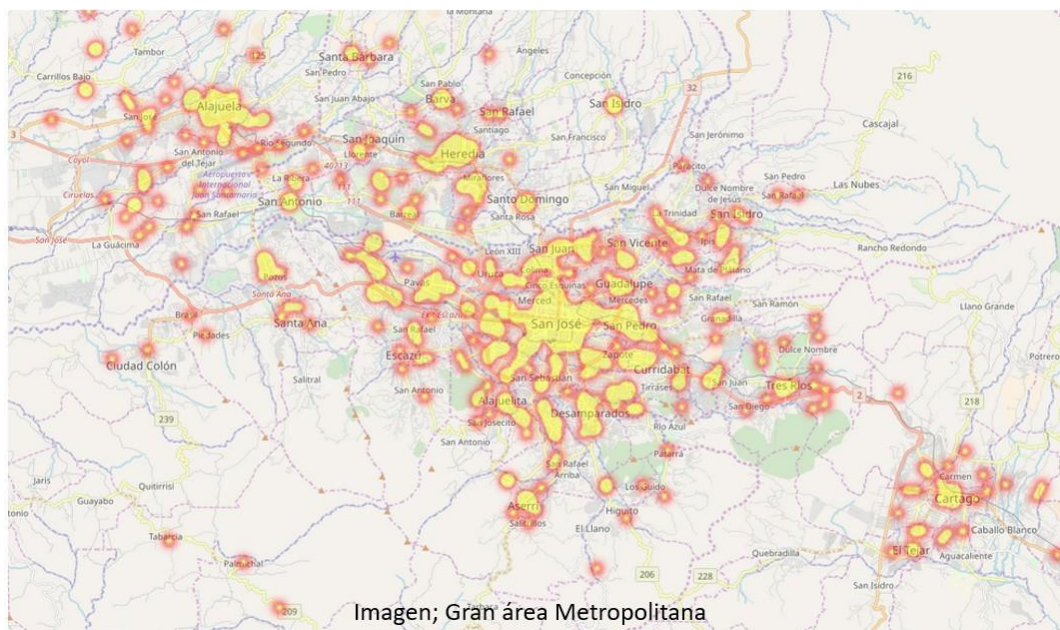
Map No. Heat map1. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The geographic illustration shows the concentrations of crime recorded at the country level. The most important clusters in Costa Rica are located in the center of the country, in the provincial capitals such as San José, Alajuela, Heredia and Cartago, areas that are part of what is known as the great metropolitan area, where 60% of the crimes are recorded, due to the population of these provinces.

Map No. Heat map2. Costa Rica, approaching the concentration of crimes



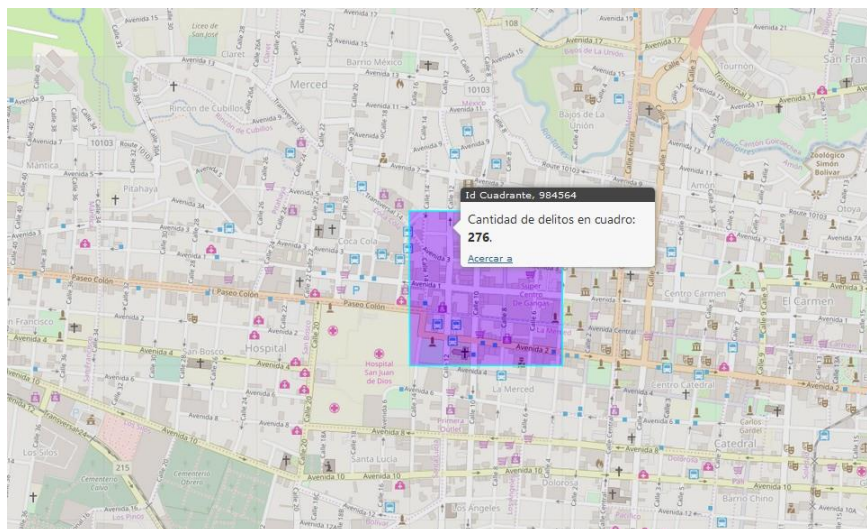
Imagen; Gran área Metropolitana

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



In order to better analyze data geographically, the Judicial Investigation Agency implemented the use of grid maps, which divide the country into geographic spaces of 500 meters by 500 meters. This allows to show the criminal incidence in even smaller concentrations than the districts and, therefore, reflect a more complete data analysis. This information is available on the Judicial Investigation Organism's web page.

Map No. Grid map3. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

This grid mapping tool facilitates operational decision making, as it allows obtaining information to determine which, where and how crimes are registered, with a minimum geographic unit, helping to direct and distribute police resources in the most conflictive areas of the country.

The Judicial Investigation Organism can answer the following questions with this type of tools:

Which province has the highest incidence of crime?

Which is the canton with the highest incidence of crime?

Which is the district with the highest incidence of crime?

What is the metre 500by metre500 grid with the highest incidence of crime?

Some of the property crimes registered in the country are linked to organized crime, since they require logistical equipment to carry out their actions, for example, when a vehicle is stolen to transport drugs or commit a homicide. As already mentioned, there are also individuals who engage in criminal activities on a personal basis due to the ease with which stolen goods can be sold and the low penalties for receiving stolen goods.

4.1.1. Assault

Assault is when one or several subjects by means of intimidation or threat rob a person of material goods. This crime recorded a significant increase in the last year, going from 14880 in 2017 to 16490 complaints in with2018, an increase in cases1610, for a percentage change of 10.8%.

Table N° Complaints²⁸. filed for assault at the Judicial Investigation Organism as of 2014 December 31, 2008 and 2008 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	14540
2015	13817
2016	14971
2017	14880
2018	16490

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

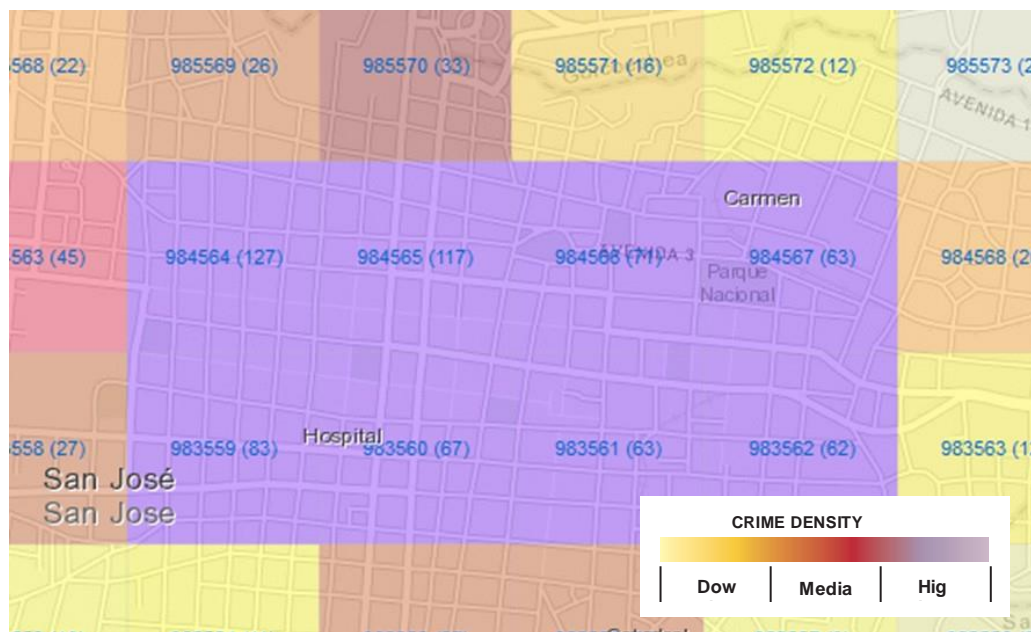
In Costa Rica, an assault is reported every 32 minutes, with the most prevalent time range being from 18:00 to 20:59 hours, registering an average number of reports 45 every day.

The mode of operation most used by criminals to intimidate and carry out assaults is through firearms. In the years under study, this modality registers more than 46% of the total number of complaints at the national level, however, for the year 2018 warned an increase, with 48% of the total number of complaints received.

The province of San José is where most assaults are reported at the national level; in terms of cantons, the canton of San José occupies the first place. The districts that have historically registered more assaults are: Hospital, Merced, Catedral and Carmen, all in the central canton of San José.

The above is consistent with the areas of highest incidence according to the meter 500 by meter 500 grids, which are delimited in the grids; 984564, 984565, 984566, 984567, 983559, 983560, 983561 and 983562, located between avenue 7 and 10, between 14th and 21st streets, this place is where the four districts of highest incidence at the national level Merced, Catedral, Hospital and Carmen converge. If these four districts were not taken into account, the places with the highest prevalence would correspond to the district of Pavas, San Pedro de Montes de Oca, the district of Heredia and the district of Alajuela.

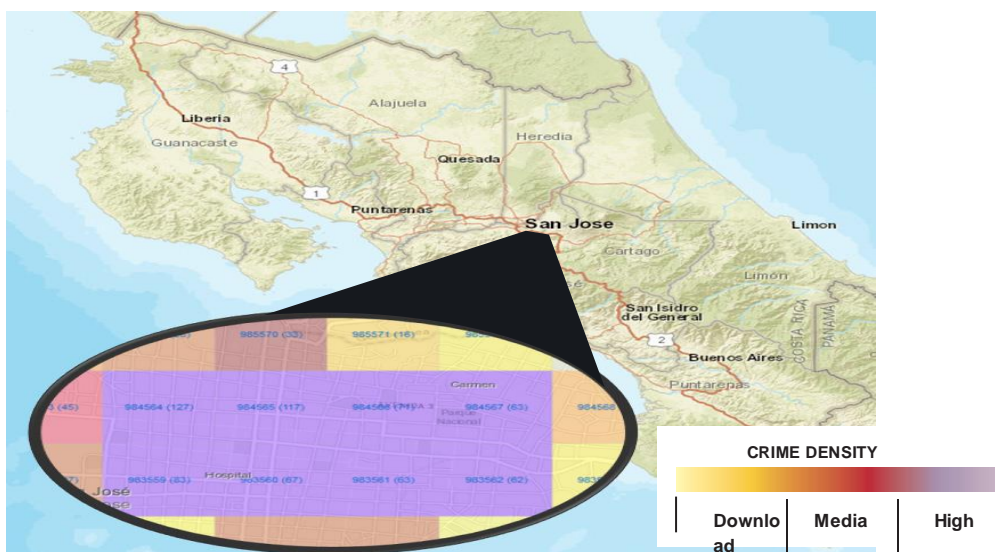
Map No. Grid map⁴. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



Map No. Grid map5. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

4.1.2. Vehicle theft

Vehicle theft is when a person is robbed of his or her vehicle by intimidation or carelessness. If we take into account the 4314 complaints registered in 2014 and compare it with the 4976 complaints that closed 2018, there is an increase of 15.3%; the days when vehicles are stolen the most are Saturdays between 18:00 to 23:59 hours.

A vehicle theft is registered every hour and minutes 45 in the country and on average there are reports 13,6 per day.

Table No. of vehicle theft complaints 29. filed with the Judicial Investigation Organism as of 2014 December 31, 2015 and 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	4313
2015	3952
2016	4292
2017	4820
2018	4976

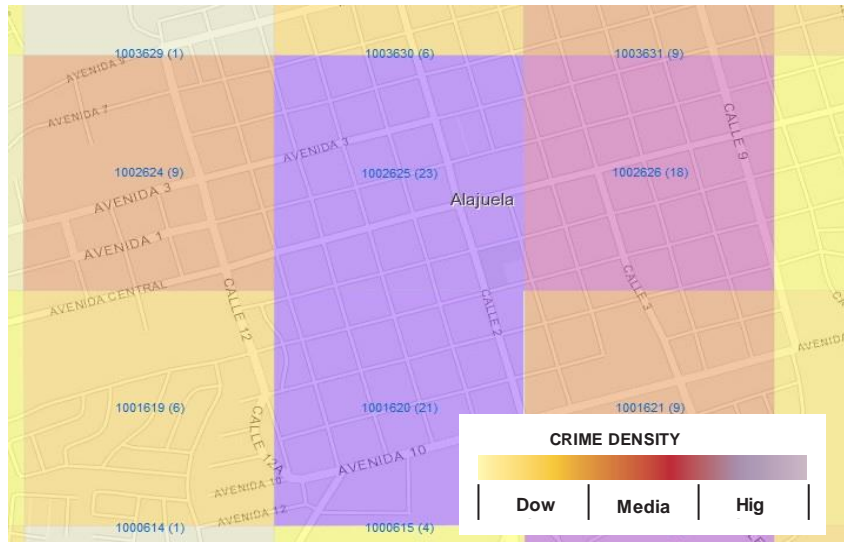
Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The modality for theft of the vehicle by carelessness is the most recorded with 54.74% for the year 2018, with this modality leading the previous years.

At the national level, taking into account the province, canton and district with the highest prevalence of vehicle theft, we have the province of San José, the canton of Alajuela and the district of Alajuela. The most stolen vehicles are motorcycles of recent years and cars from the early nineties.

When analyzing the information on which 500 meter by 500 meter grids have the highest incidence, the highest concentration is recorded in grids 1002625 and 1001620 located in the city of Alajuela between 10th and 12th streets and avenue and 10 approximately.9,

Map No. Grid map6. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

4.1.3. Vehicle scrapping

Vehicle tampering is when objects or parts are stolen from a motor vehicle regardless of whether it is locked or unlocked. If we take into account the reports⁴⁴⁴⁹ registered during the year and²⁰¹⁴ compare them with the reports⁵³¹⁰ at the end of the year,²⁰¹⁸, we observe a steady annual increase of almost 20%.

On average, one vehicle is crossed out every hour and minutes³⁹; Fridays are the most reported, between the time range of 18:00 to 23:59 hours.

Table N° Complaints30. filed for vehicle defects with the Judicial Investigation Organism as of2014 December 31, 2008 and 2008 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	4449
2015	4580
2016	5072
2017	5179
2018	5310

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The most common method used by vehicle scratchers (generally parked and without occupants) is to break the glass of the vehicle with a blunt object, with 34.12% of the total number of complaints for the year, this behavior being 2018, similar to that of previous years.

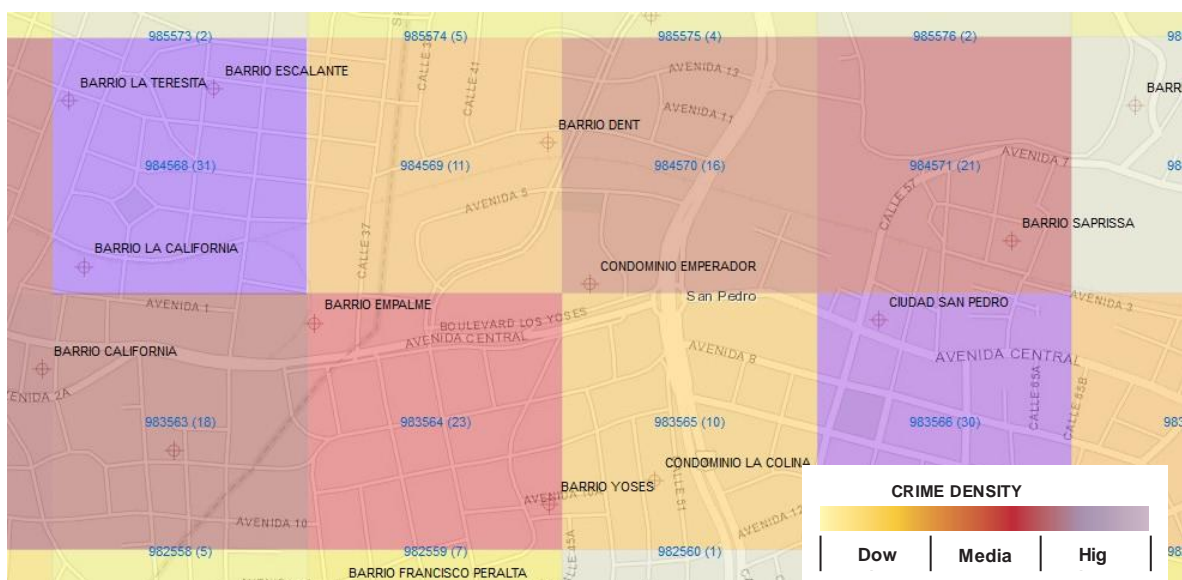
At the national level, taking into account the province, canton and district with the highest prevalence of criminal acts for vehicle tacha, we have the province of San José, canton of San José and the district of San Pedro de Montes de Oca.

The grid with the highest incidence is 983566 and is located in the district of San Pedro de Montes de Oca, near the university campus of the University of Costa Rica, and includes part of the Roosevelt and La Granja neighborhoods.



The grid is located in 984568the district of Carmen in the canton of San José, and includes part of the neighborhood of La California, Barrio Escalante and Barrio La Teresita.

Map No. Grid map7. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

4.1.4. Theft

Theft is the seizure of property without violence to persons or force. This crime shows a decrease in recent years. If we take into account the 18801 complaints registered in 2014 and compare it with the complaints 18822 that closed the year, there is no significant difference in the study period.

On average, one theft is registered every minute; Saturdays are the most reported, between the time range of 12:00 to 17:59 hours. There is an average number of complaints 51,6 per day.

Table N° Complaints31. filed for theft with the Judicial Investigation Organism as of 2014 December 31, 2015 and 2016

Year	Quantity
2014	18801
2015	20891
2016	20651
2017	19521
2018	18822

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

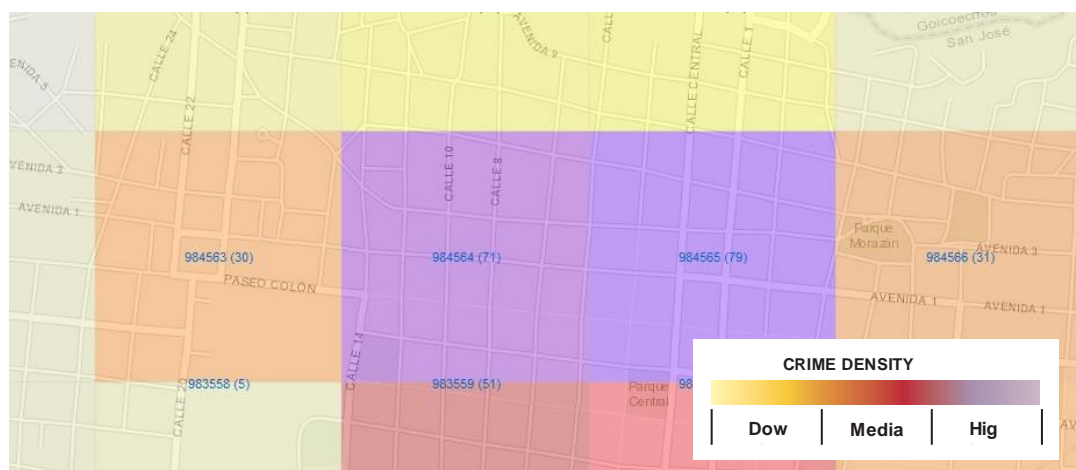
The most common method used by criminals to commit thefts is through carelessness, with 51.7% of the total number of reports for the year, this behavior being similar to that of previous years.

At the national level, taking into account the province, canton and district with the highest prevalence of theft, we have the province of San José, the canton of San José and the districts of Hospital, Catedral, Merced and Carmen, respectively.



The grids with the highest incidence are 984564 and 984565, which are located where the Merced, Carmen, Catedral and Hospital districts converge.

Map No. Grid map8. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

4.1.5. Assault on a home

Home robbery is when individuals forcibly enter a home and intimidate the inhabitants with a weapon, taking personal belongings or part of the household goods. If we take into account the complaints 629 registered during the year and 2014 compare them with the complaints 430 that closed the year, 2018, there was a decrease of 31.6%.

On average, a home robbery is registered every 20 hours and 22 minutes; Tuesdays are the days with the highest number of reports, between the time range of 18:00 to 20:59 hours.

Table No. Complaints 32. filed for home robbery at the Judicial Investigation Organism as of 2014 December 31, 2008 and 2008 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	629
2015	592
2016	608
2017	552
2018	430

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The most common method used by criminals to commit home robberies is intimidation with firearms, which accounted for 66.27% of the total number of reports for the year, 2018, with similar behavior in previous years.

At the national level, taking into account the province, canton and district with the highest prevalence of home invasion crimes, we have the province of San José, the canton of San José and the district of Limón. The information is not recorded for the quadrangles due to the fact that the number of crimes is very low.



4.1.6. Residential burglary

Residential burglary is when individuals forcibly enter a home without victim-victim contact and steal household goods. If we take into account the 7770 reports registered in 2014 and compare them with the 7264 reports that closed the year, 2018, there is a decrease of 6.5%.

On average, one residential burglary is registered every hour and twelve minutes; Mondays are the most reported, between the time range of 06:00 to 08:59 hours. On average, there are almost one complaint 20 per day.

Table No. of reports 33. received by the Judicial Investigation Organism for residential burglary at the end of 2014 the year 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	7770
2015	7660
2016	7547
2017	7708
2018	7264

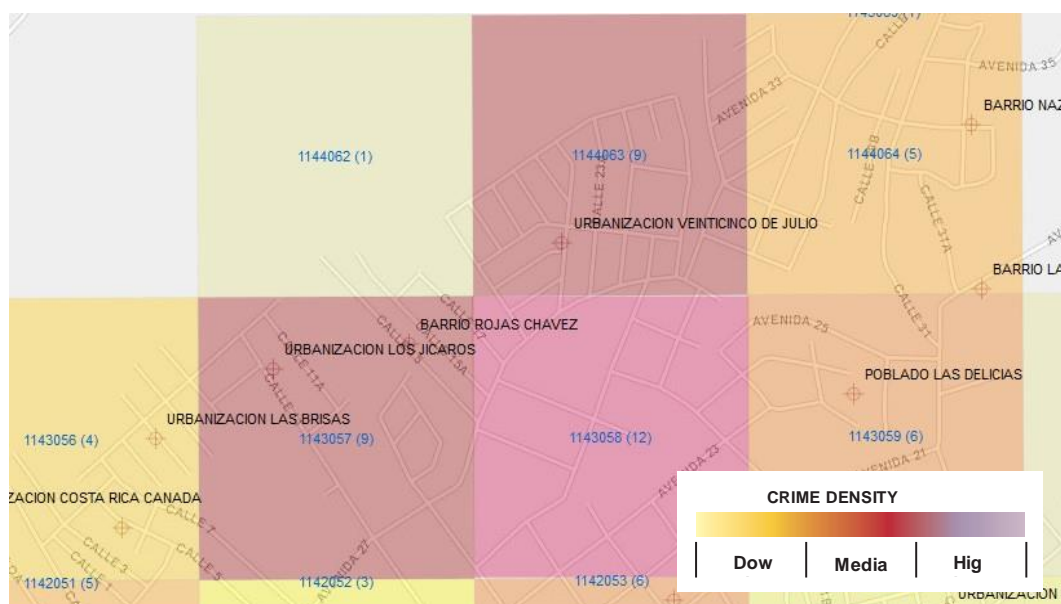
Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The most common method used by criminals to commit home burglaries is by forcing the front door, with 51.84% of the total number of reports for the year, this behavior being 2018, similar to that of previous years.

At the national level, taking into account the province, canton and district with the highest prevalence of home burglary, we have the province of Alajuela, canton of Alajuela and the district of Liberia, respectively.

If we take into account the 500 meter squares, the highest number of complaints is registered in the 1143058 quadrants, 1143057 located 1144063 in the center of Liberia in Guanacaste.

Map No. Grid map 9. Costa Rica, by crime concentration



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



4.2. Crimes against tourists

Due to its location, geographic features, biodiversity, climatic conditions and a rich tradition of peace and affinity for ecological preservation, our country is a world-class destination for tourism.

According to data from the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT), Costa Rica is visited by around 3 million foreign tourists per year entering by different means (air, land or sea). Visitors spend an average of two to three weeks in the country, as most of them travel with their families, leaving a significant foreign exchange income.

The ICT highlights that the contribution of the tourism industry to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is approximately 6.0% for the year 2008. 2018. Tourism contributes to the economy in different areas such as lodging, food, transportation, medical attention and others. In terms of employment, it is one of the most important industries with more than 200 thousand workers. The nationalities that visit us the most are Americans, Canadians, Mexicans and European nationals.

Despite the large number of foreign tourists that visit Costa Rica each year, there is a small percentage of probability that they will be victims of crime.

If we take into account the number of complaints registered in 2018 and compare it with the number of tourists who entered the country according to the ICT, we notice that the people who register complaints is 0.05% of the total number of tourists who have entered the country, which means that on average 8219 visitors enter the country daily and of these only register complaints 5 per day.

However, if one considers the complaints 1396 registered during the year and 2014 compares them with the complaints 1785 that closed the year, 2018, there was an increase of 27%.

Table No. of complaints³⁴. filed against tourists at the Judicial Investigation Organism as of December 31, 2008 2014 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	1396
2015	1300
2016	1447
2017	1504
2018	1785

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Table N° Monthly average³⁵. number of complaints against tourists filed with the Judicial Investigation Organism as of December 31, 2009. 2014 2018

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Average	116	108	121	125	149

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

At the national level, taking into account the province, canton and district with the highest prevalence of criminal acts against foreign tourists, we have the province of Puntarenas, canton of Garabito and the district of Jacó.



Table No. of complaints36. filed against tourists at the Judicial Investigation Agency, by province as of December 31, 2009. 20142018

Province	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Puntarenas	594	588	698	633	792	3305
Guanacaste	282	283	229	367	306	1467
San Jose	275	216	207	251	297	1246
Lemon	114	97	184	138	207	740
Alajuela	67	81	98	95	141	482
Heredia	35	21	24	14	21	115
Carthage	29	14	7	6	21	77
Total	1396	1300	1447	1504	1785	7432

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The information by canton shows the ten cantons with the most registered complaints, and if it were not for the canton of San José and Alajuela, the rest correspond to rural areas, which also represent the sectors with the greatest tourist attraction. As for the districts, it is noted that they mainly occur in Jacó, Quepos and Cahuita.

Table N° Complaints37. filed against tourists at the Judicial Investigation Organism, by canton at 20142018

Canton	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total, general
Garabito	176	177	221	216	263	1053
San Jose	210	164	176	194	246	990
Quepos	120	139	192	149	207	807
Puntarenas	163	161	141	127	160	752
Talamanca	77	68	146	109	159	559
Santa Cruz	76	91	72	176	110	525
Nicoya	74	72	85	103	108	442
Ursa	97	66	81	85	90	419
Alajuela	29	40	49	43	55	216
Liberia	56	45	26	24	28	179
Others	318	277	258	278	359	1490
Total, general	1396	1300	1447	1504	1785	7432

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

**Table N° Complaints38.** filed against tourists at the Judicial Investigation Organism, by district to2014 the 2018

District	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Jacó, Garabito	156	159	193	158	218	884
Quepos, Quepos	112	127	175	136	196	746
Cahuita, Talamanca	66	54	137	101	146	504
Cóbano, Puntarenas	117	99	76	76	102	470
Whale Bay, Osa	89	58	70	71	81	369
Merced, San José	60	53	45	64	71	293
Samara, Nicoya	45	43	60	76	65	289
Cathedral, San José	47	31	45	50	59	232
Tamarindo, Santa Cruz	33	30	46	77	43	229
Tárcoles, Garabito	19	18	28	58	44	167
Others	634	617	570	663	765	3249
Total	1378	1289	1445	1530	1790	7432

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

As can be seen, these crimes are more frequent in areas of the country where there are more tourists, such as the beaches and the center or headwaters of Costa Rica's largest cities.

Map No. Heat map10. Costa Rica, by crime concentration

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



There is a significant variety of crimes against tourists; however, those most prevalent are thefts, robberies and assaults, accounting for more than 95% of the total crimes recorded.

It is important to note that the highest number of complaints are registered between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

In the five years of the study, 7432 complaints are registered, with Americans registering the most events with 26.10%. When compared to the number of tourists who visited the country in 2018, the 496 complaints filed by American tourists are equivalent to 0.01% of the total number of incoming tourists. Among the ten countries with the most crimes, we have Nationals from Europe (France, Germany, Spain, Holland, among others); while from the American continent are those of These United States, Canada and Argentina.

Table No. of complaints³⁹. filed against tourists at the Judicial Investigation Agency, by nationality as of December 31, 2009. 2014-2018

Nationality	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
United States	370	311	385	383	496	1945
France	129	106	126	177	177	715
Germany	124	114	114	143	161	656
Canada	128	115	108	116	147	614
Spain	102	86	85	101	106	480
Netherlands	64	38	52	59	82	295
England	52	36	47	64	65	264
Switzerland	40	43	50	51	71	255
Italy	46	51	42	40	46	225
Argentina	19	21	29	27	63	159
Others	322	379	409	343	371	1824
Total	1396	1300	1447	1504	1785	7432

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

CHAPTER 5

CHALLENGES IN CRIME CONTAINMENT AND REDUCTION

- **Importance of fighting crime in times of fiscal crisis**
- **Model of police investigative services effectiveness**
- **Persons assigned to the Penitentiary System**



CHALLENGES IN CRIME CONTAINMENT AND REDUCTION

The criminal acts shown lead to the search for mechanisms or, failing that, alternatives to contain crime and reduce the pernicious effects on society, in addition to having a positive social perception in the understanding that the Costa Rican State system works as it should.

5.1. Importance of fighting crime in times of fiscal crisis

The fiscal crisis the country is going through entails an underlying problem that should not go unnoticed. Generally, in times of economic constriction, social projects and programs, as well as crime prevention and investigation, are limited or cut.

The report on the international drug control strategy, published on March 2, 2017 by the U.S. Department of State states that: "The fiscal deterioration, which causes the budget allocated for the country's security to decrease, threatens the work done in the fight against drug trafficking".

Also, according to the publication of the newspaper La Nación on March 7, 2017, the report states that "Despite Costa Rica's ongoing efforts to strengthen its capacity to fight drug trafficking, the country's fiscal challenges threaten to undermine the progress made in security," the study said in its conclusions. For his part, former U.S. Ambassador Stafford Haney stated that "Costa Rica must invest more in security" (Diario Extra, August 22, 2016).

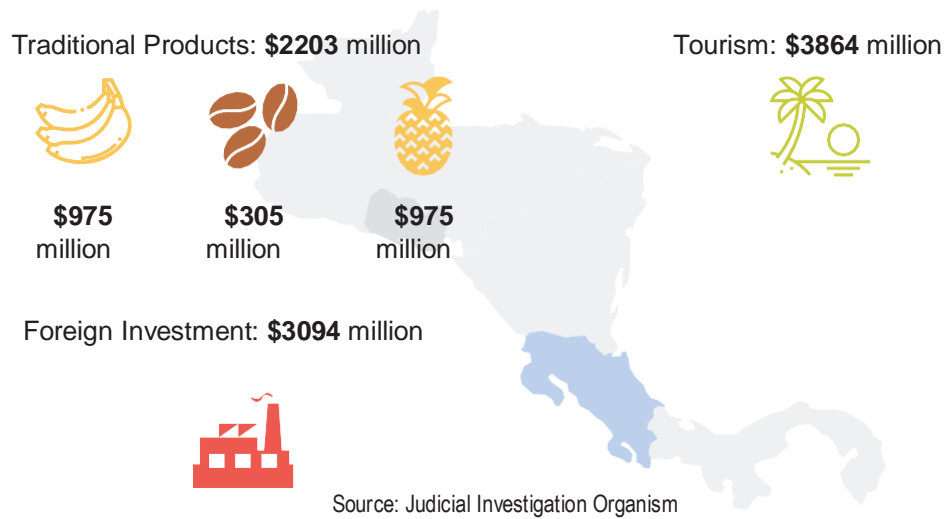
It should also be noted that the State of Justice Report of the State of the Nation states that "The Judicial Investigation Organism (OIJ) is a strategic institution in the fight against crime and citizen insecurity" (p. 295).

The added value (peace and social security) generated by both preventive and investigative security forces positively affects the employability conditions offered by the country to domestic and foreign investors. If Costa Rica were to have the crime rates of several countries in the region, the business climate would not be sustainable.

The cost of not investing in security is great, since the economic losses that could arise from the damage to the country's international image would, according to data provided by the ICT, affect not only 27% of the labor force, but also jobs that depend on foreign investment.

According to data obtained from the ICT, traditional export products (bananas, coffee and pineapple) total a little more than US\$2 billion, while foreign tourism reported a foreign exchange income of US\$3684 million for the year. 2017.

There are approximately 600 thousand people who depend directly or indirectly on the income generated by tourism. This figure represents 27% of the country's labor force for a total of almost 3 million visitors in 2017. This means that for every inhabitant of the country, we are visited by tourists 0.6

Figure N° Illustration7. of over-export and number of tourists arriving to Costa Rica

If there is no investment in the improvement of police forces at the national level despite the fiscal crisis and the need to restrict public spending, a phenomenon diametrically opposed to the one sought may occur, namely an increase in violence and crimes that make it impossible to maintain social peace in the country.

Since there are no companies willing to invest in the national territory or leave the country as a result of the prevailing ungovernability, the income of the public treasury is reduced because there would be no taxpayers, due to the great threat posed by the chaos caused by the lack of security.

This is relevant and important, since the number of cases admitted to the Judicial Investigation Agency has increased in recent years and despite the fact that police performance has increased by more than 8 percentage points in solving crimes in the last 8 years, conditions that are deteriorating the work of the judicial police are beginning to be observed.

The installed capacity for crime investigation has been decreasing for several exogenous reasons. Traditionally, the Judicial Police is measured by the number of complaints received in which a person goes to a police station to file a complaint. However, the police must perform tasks at the request of a party (judges and prosecutors), ex officio (such as homicides and deaths under investigation) and on their own initiative (such as drug trafficking and money laundering).

In a decade, the number of complaints (i.e., those in which the offended party goes directly to a police station to report a crime) received by the Judicial Investigation Organism doubled, going from complaints 46410 in 2003 to 101733 in 2018, for a percentage change of 119.2%, however, the number of OIJ investigation personnel in the same period increased by only 50%, as shown in Graph N° 6.

Part of the increase has been promoted by the Costa Rican government due to the criminalization of conducts such as the elimination of petty theft, the criminalization of traffic laws, increased penalties under the weapons law, the victim and witness protection law, the organized crime law, the law on the disappearance of minors, the law on improper relationships, and the animal welfare law, among others.

The problem has been that most of these laws do not add new resources to the OIJ to maintain capacity and this is seriously detrimental to quality service. There has been an increase in personnel in non-mission areas or to support tasks that the judicial police itself has not requested, such as prison custodians, protection and locations. However, the OIJ's muscle (investigation personnel and those who directly assist in the resolution of cases) has not increased.



The problem with the increase in the number of complaints is that the investigative work becomes more complex, with a greater amount of evidence to process, which directly impacts the operation of the offices dedicated to assisting with criminal investigations.

Other investigative cases, such as confidential information (citizen communications to inform confidentially about the commission of a crime), went from in the 6234 year to 2014 in 10569 the year for an 2018, increase of 70%. The number of arrests has had an irregular behavior, however, for the last year there was an increase of 21%, going from from in 5499 the year to 2017 in 6673 the year 2000, and the 2018. number of judicial collaboration proceedings that enter the OIJ recorded an increase of 16% in the period under study, going from in the year 2014 to 14118 in 16332 the year 2000. 2018.

Table No. Number 40. of confidential information (CICO) received by the Judicial Investigation Organism as of December 31, 2009. 2014 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	6234
2015	5159
2016	5581
2017	8593
2018	10569

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Table No. Number 41. of arrests processed by the Judicial Investigation Organism as of December 31, 2007 and 2008 2014 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	7633
2015	6899
2016	5721
2017	5499
2018	6673

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Table No. Number 42. of minor proceedings processed by the Judicial Investigation Organism as of 2014 December 31, 2008 and 2009 2018

Year	Quantity
2014	14118
2015	15685
2016	16662
2017	14873
2018	16332

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The correlation extrapolated from these data is simple: the more cases, the more operations, raids, defendants, detainees, people in OIJ cells, victims to protect, laboratory analysis and pathology service, however, the number of investigation



personnel remains practically the same, with the aggravating factor that investigations become more complex.



By way of example, recently in 2017, the Forensic Science Department obtained accreditation to ISO 17020 and ISO 17025. This ensures under international standards observed beyond any doubt, the reliability of the expertise performed. However, the increase in violence and sadism in the commission of crimes has led to an increase in the amount of evidence to be processed, as mentioned above.

The Toxicology Section (whose main work is the study of toxic effects) received a 2014 total of indications 14,994 during the year, however, for the year the number of indications received increased 2018 by almost 7% for a total of indications. 16,031

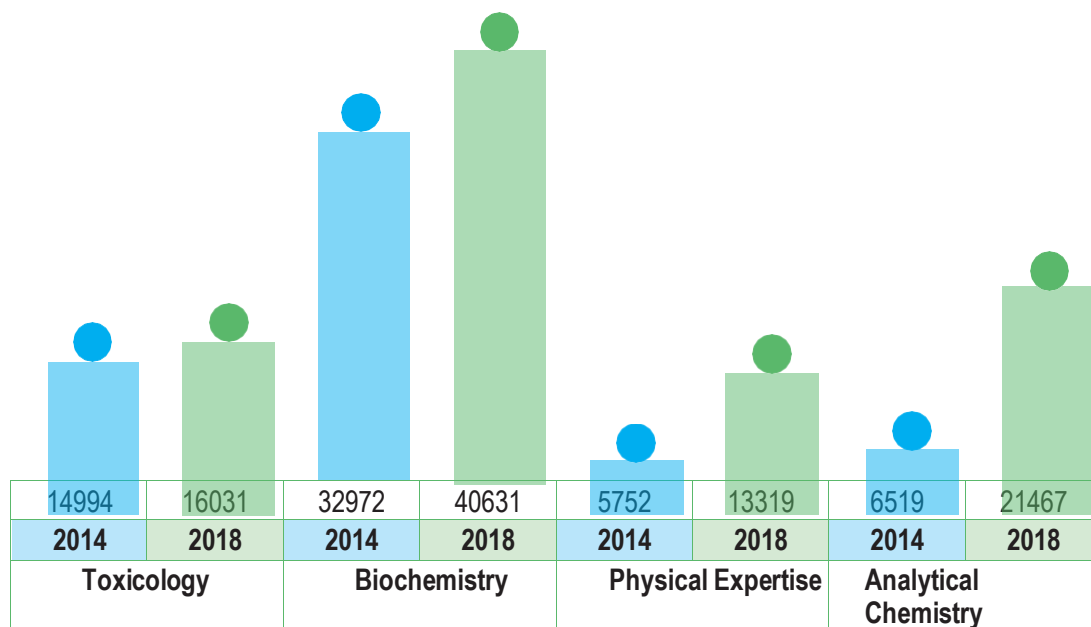
During the year, the Biochemistry Section 2014 received a total number of samples 32,972, while for the year an 40,631, increase of 23% in the number of items 7,659 to be over-processed was 2018 received.

For its part, the Physical Forensics Section (whose main work is ballistics) received in the year a 2014 total of indicia 5,752, however, for the year 2018 alarmingly doubled the amount of indicia received by almost 131%, for a total of indicia. 13,319

Finally, the Analytical Chemistry Section (in charge of analyzing psychotropic substances) reported an increase of 230% in the number of cases received, since it registered 2014 samples 6,519 during the year, while the 2018 figure for the year was 21,467 samples. It is worth noting the excessive increase in such a short period of time of two sections that work with samples related to organized crime.

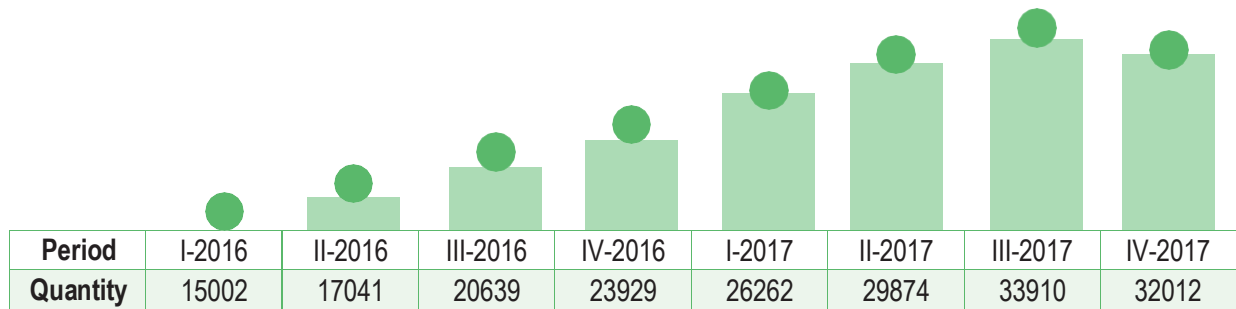
As mentioned in the section on homicides and drug trafficking, these increases reflect the spiral of violence to which the country has been subjected, manifested mainly in the acts where a firearm is fired (instead of one or two projectiles to execute the victim, there are scenarios with multiple shots with various firearms) as well as the amount of drugs that have increased their seizure.

Graph No. Number 2. of exhibits analyzed at the Forensic Science Department and 2014 2018



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

This has had as a direct effect a significant backlog of expertise that are vital to prove the execution of the crime. Note how in the following graph the number of pending expert opinions as of the first quarter of 2016 was 1,5002, while at the end of the fourth quarter of the year the 2017 number of pending articles 32,012 was 1,5002.

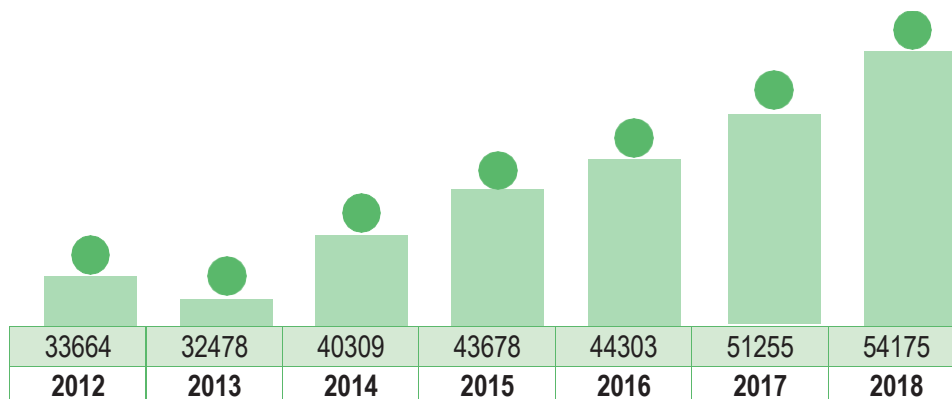
Graph No. 3. Forensic Science Department's pending expertise during the period 2016 to 2018, according to quarter.

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The Criminal Archive Section is in charge of processing arrest warrants received from the different judicial offices to be assigned to the Arrest Section and to the different offices, units, subdelegations and delegations of the Judicial Investigation Agency. As can be seen in the following graph, the rising incidence has remained for several years.

Of course, as more investigative cases come in, there is an increase in the number of other police procedures involved in an investigation, such as arrest warrants, visual inspections, interviews, searches, minor procedures and other formalities that involve a workload for the investigation offices.

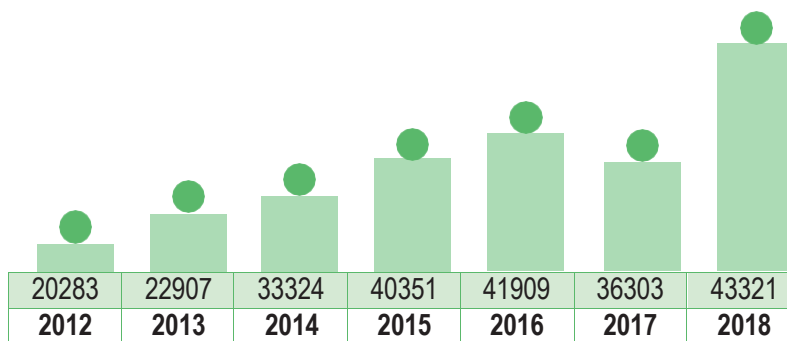
Within the Judicial Investigation Organism is the Jail section and its satellite units, in charge of attending the detainees required by different judicial authorities. For this work, they receive both the detainees processed by the OIJ, as well as the judicial practices, which are all those proceedings such as trials, examinations, hearings of detainees who are already designated in different penal centers of the country, so they must be transferred to the different judicial offices and while they execute the proceedings they remain in the cells of the OIJ.

Chart No. Movements4. by arrest warrants issued by the criminal file of the Judicial Investigation Organism, as of December 31, 2009. 20122018

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



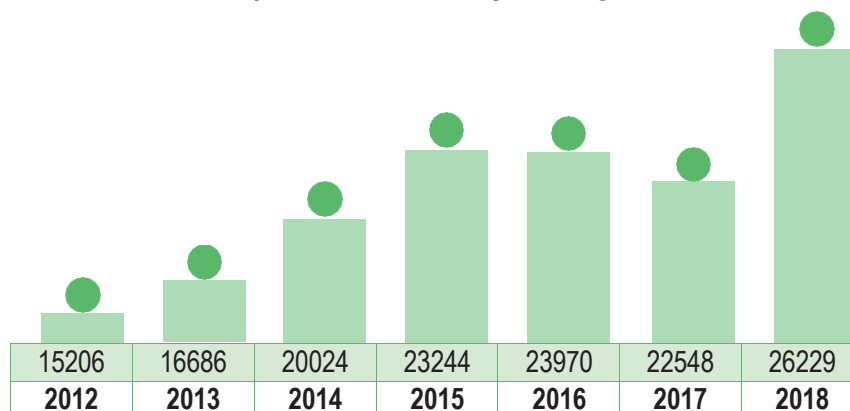
Graph No. of Prison Practices⁵. served by the Judicial Investigation Organism as of December 31, 2009.
20122018



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

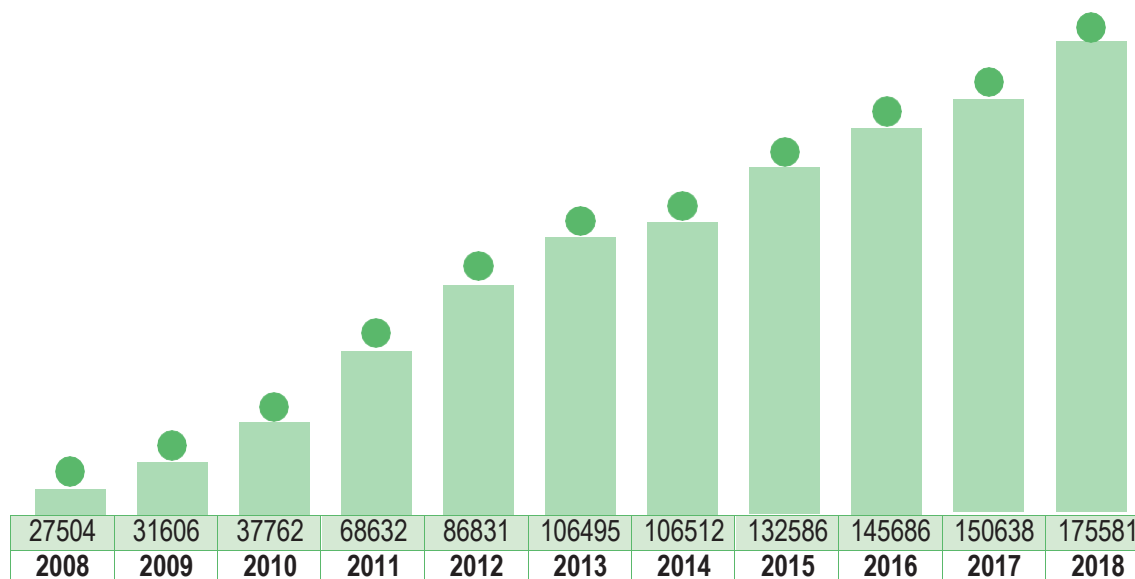
In addition, these same personnel attend to all the detainees that are brought in by the different police procedures, whether they are recently detained, in transit or ready to be sent to a penal center, providing custody, transfers, food and other necessary procedures.

Graph N° of persons⁶. handled in cells by the Judicial Investigation Organism, as of 2012 the end of the year 2018



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Graph No. of 7.administrative cases (police matters) handled by the Judicial Investigation Agency as of December 31, 2008 20082018



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

5.2. Model of police investigative services effectiveness

The Judicial Investigation Agency has opted for a police management based on four main pillars, the first being the attack on crime and its different manifestations (organized crime, traditional crime and a special section on the fight against corruption).

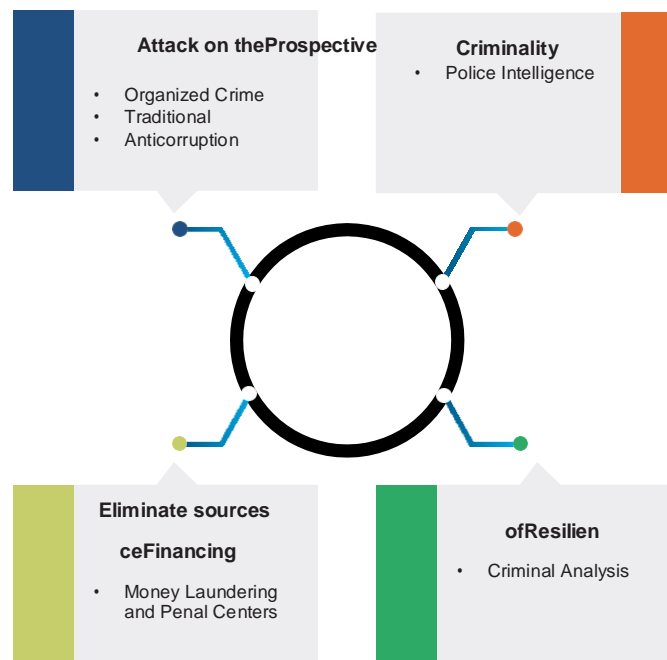
The second pillar is to identify the sources of financing of criminals and try to eliminate them; the aim is to reduce the operational capacity of these types of criminal organizations.

The third and fourth pillars are related, being police intelligence applied through a group of officers in charge of understanding current and future criminal phenomena and how they can impact our society, as well as establishing the degree of dangerousness of the organizations once they have been hit by the police and how they can rise again so that this does not happen (criminal resilience).

5.2.1. Criminal Investigation

The first pillar deals with criminal investigation, which is fought from three approaches: common crime, investigation of organized groups and investigation of acts of corruption.

Figure N° Model8. of effectiveness of police investigative services



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

5.2.1.1. Strategies for investigating common crime

This is the name given to crime that does not have as a common objective the economic strengthening of the criminal group to continue the criminal activity, but rather are people who individually or jointly and without a clear manifestation of acting in concert over time, break the law so that they can receive gratification, whether monetary, pleasure or satisfaction. Common crime comprises more than 90% of the cases worked by the Judicial Investigation Organism, which was analyzed in chapter four.

Police strategies to address common crime are divided into deterrent, preventive and investigative initiatives.



In terms of deterrence strategies, weekly operational meetings are held between the Criminal Analysis Unit and personnel from the Ministry of Public Security, which was formalized through circular 15-DG-2016 in order to define objectives, analyze the criminal phenomenon and coordinate participation in targeted operational work defined after data analysis; after this, feedback and monitoring of the results obtained is carried out.

Another way to deter crime is to seek alliances with trade organizations that allow for effective communication between the police and these organizations. In this way, several meetings have been held with the country's chambers of commerce to achieve close coordination aimed at deterring crime.

As for preventive strategies, it is carried out through different publications in audiovisual and digital mass media and social networks, as well as face-to-face meetings.

The publications in the media are deployed through weekly radio programs where different topics of police and community interest are addressed. There are informative capsules through radio programs in which different modes of operation are communicated so that the population becomes aware of them and can avoid becoming victims.

Radio program and radio spots with tips



Through a strategic positioning of the institution in the use of social networks, it has been possible to reach a thousand 375followers on Facebook, with an approximate daily reach of up to one thousand 60users.

With this coverage, there are initiatives that seek to orient the user regarding the different possibilities of action that he/she has as a victim within the criminal process, as well as to educate citizens about the different crimes and their impact, with thematic programs and virtual forums, among others.

Presence in social networks



Queries on Facebook



Thematic programs on Youtube



At the face-to-face level, there are different initiatives that seek to bring the police closer to the community and citizen participation, either through police meetings with the community, police coffee afternoons, OIJ fairs and social outreach to schools and colleges.

Police meetings with the community





Police coffee afternoons



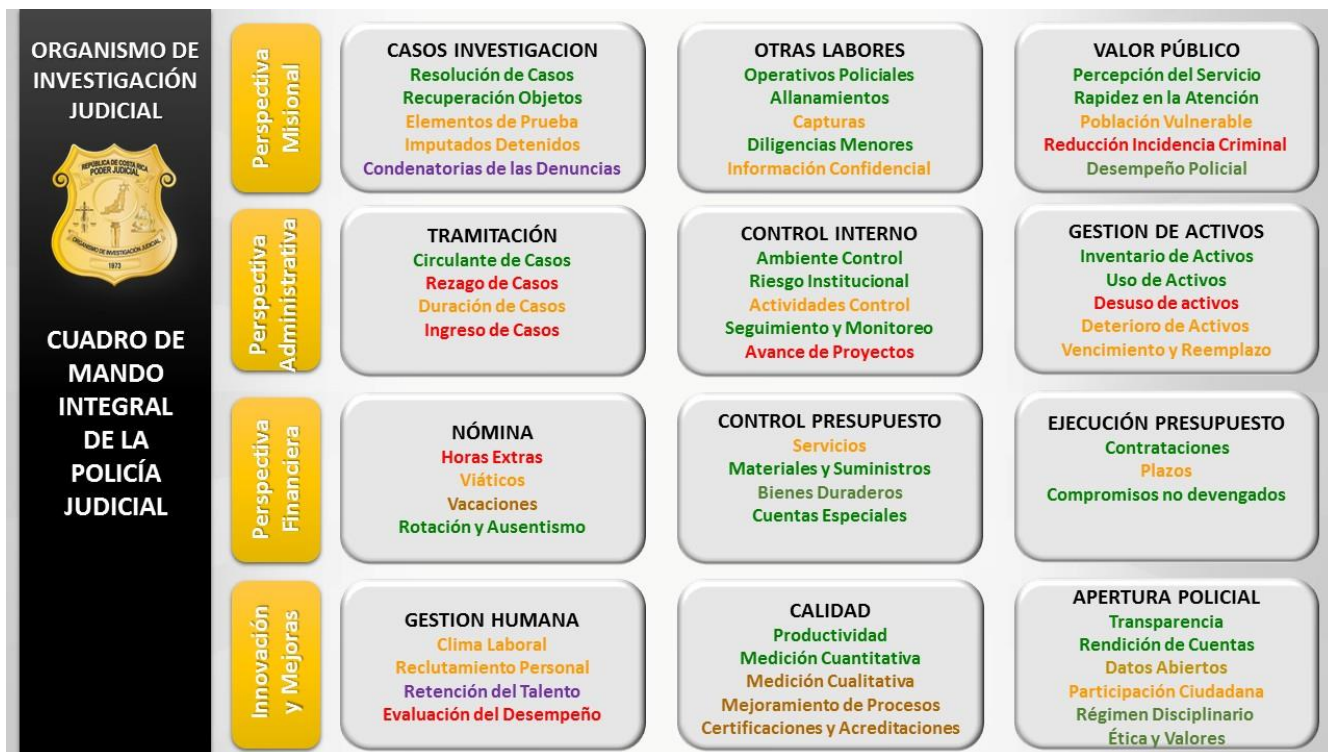
OIJ Fair



OIJ's social projection



Image N° Balanced 5.Scorecard



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

As a corollary, any investigative police that prides itself on being serious and professional has key performance indicators that supervise the investigative activity, being that management information systems are available through a balanced scorecard, which allow tracking at up to three levels of granularity the information resulting from the complaints and their resolution.

The first point of control is the review of the cases by the immediate headquarters of the investigative personnel; then, as a second control, there is a special team dedicated to measuring performance and an additional third that supervises the police work.

Thus, if an office deviates from the established or expected parameters, a second level of support is provided by the operational advisors, which consists, following the plan-do-check-act (PHVA) methodology, in determining the reasons for the deviation, in order to correct the causes of the deviation, through letters of commitment that serve as remedial plans. In case the difference is significant, it is referred to the supervision unit for a more in-depth third level review.

All these control elements ensure a quality investigation based on the highest international standards, within which the judicial police is committed to give its best effort in favor of the welfare of Costa Ricans.

5.2.1.2. Strategies for investigating organized groups

The Judicial Police has sought to dismantle the organized criminal structures that exist in the country. To this end, it has an updated inventory of the different criminal groups and annually plans a concerted attack on different criminal organizations.



This is done through two clearly defined strategies. The first is in conjunction with the Drug Control Police (PCD) and the Public Prosecutor's Office through an annual meeting in which drug trafficking targets are drawn up, especially drug dealing, in which at least two investigation targets¹³⁰ are taken, divided between the PCD and the OIJ.

Subsequently, a feedback meeting is held to review the progress of the investigations in progress, and the average annual resolution or positive cases is more than 50%, while the remaining cases become part of the regular investigations of each police officer. Also, in some cases, it has been determined that the offender has already been arrested or has died.

This ensures a response to the various anonymous complaints received through the toll-free 800-8000-645 line belonging to the OIJ's Confidential Information Center (CICO) and the PCD's 1176 line, both of which are available to the public as a tool for the prosecution of crimes that are not reported through traditional channels.

The second mechanism used is the regional consultative bodies, a meeting held periodically to plan strategies to dismantle criminal organizations, which is in charge of the Office of Plans and Operations through the Criminal Analysis Unit, the Police Information Collection Unit, the Operational Advisors Unit, as well as the regional offices of the OIJ and a representative of the Public Prosecutor's Office. The different criminal structures are analyzed and the most important targets are prioritized. .

Thus, the objective of the police is to strike directly at the criminal structure by dismantling, if not all, at least as many members of the criminal organization as possible.

This has been successful on the part of the police, being that among some of the important cases dismantled in the years and 2017 groups are 2018 recorded: "Tio" (criminal group of one of the largest drug traffickers in the country), "Gringo" (criminal structure dedicated to drug trafficking and homicides), "Alemanias Unidas" (dedicated to homicides and threats), "Zeus" (criminal group dedicated to drug trafficking) and "Club de amigos" (group dedicated to the sale of drugs and homicide), among others, being that of the main organizations, criminal gangs⁵⁴ were disarticulated with a total of detainees.¹⁰⁰³

Table N° Main43. organizations dismantled by the OIJ and PCD during the years and 2017 2018

Date	Office	Case	Crime	Charged	Police Deployment
12/01/2017	Lemon	Tupac	Homicide	12	180
08/02/2017	Alajuela	China	Drug trafficking	11	44
01/03/2017	San Jose	Coffee	Drug trafficking	43	650
01/03/2017	San Jose	Boulevard	Drug trafficking	9	90
09/03/2017	Lemon	Cieneguita Beach	Homicide	10	250
16/03/2017	San Jose	Fortress	Drug trafficking	8	72
09/05/2017	San Jose	Registration Fraud	Scam	39	350
15/05/2017	Guapiles	Castrol	Drug Trafficking/Murder	14	350
17/05/2017	Puntarenas	Professor	Assault/Kidnapping	8	100
29/05/2017	Alajuela	Containers	Van Theft	33	450
01/06/2017	San Jose	Homeland	Drug trafficking	8	48
06/06/2017	San Jose	Rino	Child pornography	5	50
08/06/2017	Bataan	Moustron	Drug trafficking	11	40
11/07/2017	Brokers	La Gorda	Drug trafficking	11	90
12/07/2017	Brokers	Memokimba	Drug Trafficking/Murder	18	345



SITUATION REPORT COSTA RICA 2018

22/08/2017	Perez Zeledon	Los Papis	Drug Trafficking/Murder	32	400	
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24/10/2017	Los Chilas	Gorilla	Drug trafficking	24	380
24/10/2017	San Jose	Corina	Drug trafficking	8	51
09/11/2017	San Carlos	Fat Gerson	Drug trafficking	20	425
23/11/2017	La Cruz	Heads	Drug Trafficking/Murder	36	500
06/12/2017	San Jose	Dismembered	Homicides	5	53
12/12/2017	Guapiles	Realengo	Homicide	13	200
01/01/2018	San Jose	Tabo	Drug trafficking	15	200
18/01/2018	Siquirres	Can	Drug trafficking	17	220
25/01/2018	San Jose	Friends Club	Drug trafficking	40	800
25/01/2018	San Jose	Uncle	Drug trafficking	24	266
26/02/2018	Quepos	Sixto	Abduction	13	61
06/03/2018	San Jose	Picones	Traffic Law Inf.	11	220
13/03/2018	Turrialba	Reventazón	Drug trafficking	24	170
14/03/2018	Jaco	Planet	Drug trafficking	10	100
15/03/2018	San Jose	Kevin	Homicide	11	59
12/04/2018	San Jose	Gringo	Drug trafficking	12	300
12/04/2018	Greece	Narco Greeks	Drug trafficking	15	100
19/04/2018	Nicoya	Nosareños	Drug trafficking	13	90
25/04/2018	Santa Cruz	Limonenses	Drug trafficking	28	225
03/05/2018	Brokers	Conquest	Drug trafficking	9	45
16/05/2018	San Jose	United Germanies	Drug trafficking	12	147
16/05/2018	San Jose	Fat	Drug trafficking	14	105
17/05/2018	Puntarenas	Pecos Bill	Homicides	7	76
21/05/2018	San Jose	Pattern	Drug trafficking	36	645
23/05/2018	Puntarenas	Zeus	Drug trafficking	22	150
29/05/2018	Alajuela	Delta	Van Theft	32	247
05/06/2018	Lemon	Recope	Theft	14	200
21/06/2018	Turrialba	Black	Drug trafficking	9	60
18/07/2018	San Ramon	Narcofamily	Drug trafficking	8	40
27/08/2018	San Jose	Laitano	Forgery	39	378
04/09/2018	Bataan	Licorera	Drug trafficking	21	286
04/09/2018	San Jose	Heaven and Earth	Human Trafficking	31	600
19/09/2018	San Jose	Mechudos	Drug trafficking	25	253
23/10/2018	Guanacaste	Troy	Drug trafficking	12	110
05/11/2018	San Jose	Acana	Drug trafficking	56	300
14/11/2018	Guapiles	Leticia	Drug trafficking	13	170
14/11/2018	San Jose	Taiwan	Abduction	21	271
29/11/2018	San Jose	Parce	Drug trafficking	11	50

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism and Drug Control Police.

5.2.1.3. Strategies for the investigation of acts of corruption

The Judicial Investigation Agency requires a specialized section for the investigation of crimes against corruption and public function. Currently, there is a working unit within the Fraud Section with a limited number of investigators, which is not sufficient for the number of crimes and, beyond this, for the difficulty and complexity of these crimes.

In spite of some initial difficulties in obtaining personnel specialized in economic and financial crimes, and the fact that the study period is from the 2014 end of the year, to 2018, must be acknowledged that the Superior Council of the Judiciary decided to convert some positions for expert auditors into regular positions and the Court also assumed a responsible commitment to provide an Anti-Corruption Section in the OIJ. However, it is still pending that the country can count with this section, since as of the date of this report, it is still pending to materialize.

This is of paramount importance because as a scientific technical police that must demonstrate far from any doubt or political affiliation, the real truth of the facts requires the technical counterpart to review thousands of transactions and documents. In these five years, it has been more easily evidenced through high-profile cases a possible vertical integration of organized crime in different areas of public authorities and even showing relationships between high-ranking officials of the Costa Rican State.

There is a transversal weakness in these corruption cases and it is the fact that, as mentioned above, the verticality denoted (see section 1.3.) has a political component in which there is a legal barrier that prevents the Judicial Investigation Organism from acting on its own initiative and based on a factual picture that suggests a criminal activity in progress.

The express prohibition for the Judicial Police to investigate on its own initiative cases in which a crime is believed to exist on the part of officials holding the supreme powers of the country, such as the President of the Republic, ministers, deputies and magistrates, at least within the so-called crimes of the public function, should be reviewed.

This type of restrictive regulation for the police could fit with a 50-year-old vision of the country in which it was feared that police forces had unlimited discretion with which they could abuse their power to lend themselves to political gamesmanship and calculation.

The reality of the country today is totally different. There are serious and formal police forces capable of carrying out technical and scientific investigations and within this scenario the Judicial Investigation Organism can attest through different national awards and international recognitions that it would never lend itself to national political games.

As part of the guarantee of objectivity and impartiality of the OIJ and as a result of a technical police report in which there was an omission of review by the jurisdictional part, the departure of several judges of the Third Chamber and the Attorney General took place shortly after, as well as the suspension of the Deputy Prosecutor on duty.

Despite the fact that this omission was part of the immediate superiors of the Director General of the OIJ (magistrates of the Third Chamber of Criminal Cassation), they proceeded to report this omission, which is a guarantee to the citizens of probity, objectivity and impartiality of the Judicial Investigation Agency and all officers of this police.

Therefore, it is urgent with great speed that the Judicial Investigation Organism, when faced with a "noticia criminis", can carry out the necessary preliminary diligences to accredit such situation and inform the Attorney General's Office, and that it is not as it happens nowadays, that no matter how many elements may be configured due to the express prohibition stated above, it is not possible to investigate.

Furthermore, apart from being a good ally and even a counterweight to the work of the Attorney General's Office in its fight against crime, it is a challenge for the country to make state management more transparent and overcome mental and material poverty.



It should be recalled that the Judicial Investigation Agency is the leader in transparency at the national level in the two editions that it has participated in the Public Sector Transparency Index, and for 5 consecutive years it has been rated as the best non-educational public institution in the country according to a national perception survey conducted by the CIEP.

As part of its organizational responsibility, the judicial police has taken the lead in offering citizens a toolbox against corruption where civil society can verify the existing documentation on the regulations on this issue, how to prevent it, how to report it and how this crime affects us.

This corruption generally implies a normalization of crime, that is, illicit actions that within the pragmatic collective are not seen as criminal acts, but as tolerable situations.

By way of example, tax evasion through smuggling is not viewed as severely as drug trafficking, yet it is an equally punishable offense. Thus, if someone is found with a truckload of liquor, they are not prosecuted as severely as someone found with kilos³⁰ of drugs in their car.

The same phenomenon occurs with crimes against the public service and fraudulent crimes, where there are tenders directed so that only one company can win or there is a prior extra-procedural agreement to obtain a contract.

Finally, it should be pointed out that there is a vacuum in terms of the tools provided for investigating corruption, such as the possibility of wiretapping telephones and the possibility of investigating members of the Supreme Powers who are found to have committed a crime related to acts of corruption.

5.2.2. Elimination of illicit sources of income

The second major pillar on which the police management model of the Judicial Investigation Agency is based is the elimination of the sources of income of criminals.

The main activity of organized groups is the trafficking of illicit goods in order to obtain monetary gratification. However, this profit is used to maintain a criminal structure and thus have control and dominance within the criminal organization as well as over a territory.

Even once the ringleader has been arrested, the criminal activity continues in his physical absence, but this absence does not prevent the activity from continuing, thus obtaining sources of income to perpetuate the crime. This is because the criminals who remain within the organization continue to attend to the affairs of the ringleader and he controls them even from prison. The remaining link is economic power, a very strong attachment.

This is where it is important that the Judicial Investigation Agency has the muscle to eliminate these sources of income in order to leave the criminal organization without the operational capacity to respond.

Worldwide, and Costa Rica is no exception, there are people or organizations dedicated to receiving money and investing it for profit or to justify the preceding crime.

This idea is based on the fact that the aim is to disguise income affected by a previous crime (such as drug trafficking) and inject it into an economy. This is more difficult to demonstrate when there is already a front business or a legally constituted shell, whose organizational line of business is to intermingle the legal activity with the illegal activity.

Figure N° Classification9. of the levels of criminal structures



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

Generally, the police attack four of the five levels of the criminal structures, be they storage, sale, distribution and transport, however, they often fail to eliminate the sources of financing. This is why the police management model involves this aspect as a fundamental part of the fight against crime.

This model still lacks a functional component, which is a law for the extinction of ownership that would bring to account unjustified increases in wealth without the existence of a licit source for this increase. This is a pending task that has to go through a national agreement on the direction the country wants to take.

This is not a witch hunt or an upstart decision; rather, it is a matter of preventing the growth of fortunes in the country that have no legal or commercial basis. Crimes associated with corruption or illicit enrichment have an indirect impact on those who have less, because the money that should go to social welfare items may not reach its legitimate recipient.

The other scenario involves violent crimes committed by criminal groups based on drug trafficking and related activities that seek to emerge with capital raised in the same illicit way, but with a violent criminal predicate.

This type of criminality is more visible and has a direct impact on society, generally in the lower classes with a toll of violence and people killed or injured, but there can also be some collateral damage when an innocent life is crossed at the wrong time.

Figure N°10 . Police management model



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism



5.2.3. Police intelligence

The third pillar of the Judicial Investigation Organism's proposal is to carry out police intelligence work aimed at anticipating the risks and threats posed by the illicit activities of criminal organizations, as well as to determine and identify certain criminal phenomena that negatively impact society in order to make the most appropriate decisions to mitigate them and guarantee social order and peaceful coexistence.

This work takes a leading role in producing criminal intelligence, related to the identification of criminal organizations, established targets and institutional interest to establish actions that revolve around the knowledge and identification of new social threats, challenges and the evolution of criminality, in order to guide the different police units through the production of strategic, tactical and operational intelligence.

In addition, its purpose is to contribute to the execution of institutional policy through the production of criminal intelligence, defining priorities in the face of complex criminal structures, where it provides support to police offices to act accordingly and achieve the highest standards of efficiency.

It also acts under the criterion of crime prevention, by collecting information to interpret a past, current and future reality, so that the best decisions can be made to counteract crime.

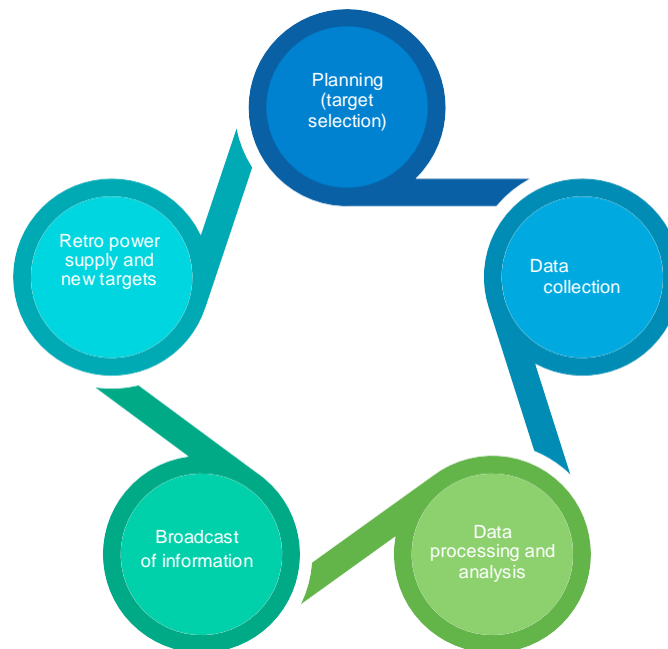
The primary functions of police intelligence are the collection of information through different sources such as:

- **Human sources:** people provide information of interest for intelligence production.
- **Documentary sources:** these are all expressions collected in writing or by any mechanical means, technically printed, containing data or facts of interest for the production of intelligence.
- **Open sources:** information from open resources, set of structured, organized and systematized data, accessible in real time, can be public or private, including social networks.

All the information collected must go through a process of treatment, evaluation and analysis to generate knowledge about the different criminal phenomena, in order to guide the police units for the execution of tasks related to the activity materialized through a final product, which seeks to be prosecuted in criminal proceedings.

Within police intelligence, the following products are obtained:

- **Current intelligence:** information inputs through the follow-up and monitoring of the country's criminal phenomenon, in which crime trends are determined on a daily basis, leading to an analysis that guides decision making.
- **Intelligence by objectives:** depending on the institutional need, police intelligence allows prioritizing and focusing the lines of work for the collection of information, in order to structure active criminal groups, for their due dismantling.
- **Criminal foresight:** is the technique of being able to analyze current data and visualize future risks over time, thus preventing these risks from materializing, as well as alerting in time to avoid the occurrence of new emerging criminal behaviors.

Figure N° Intelligence cycle¹¹.

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

5.2.4. Criminal resilience

The fourth pillar of the police management model deals with the concept of resilience, which is the ability to overcome or adapt to adversity. Criminal resilience can be defined as the capacity of criminal organizations to recover from a blow provided by formal control agents (the police) or by informal elements (a rival criminal group).

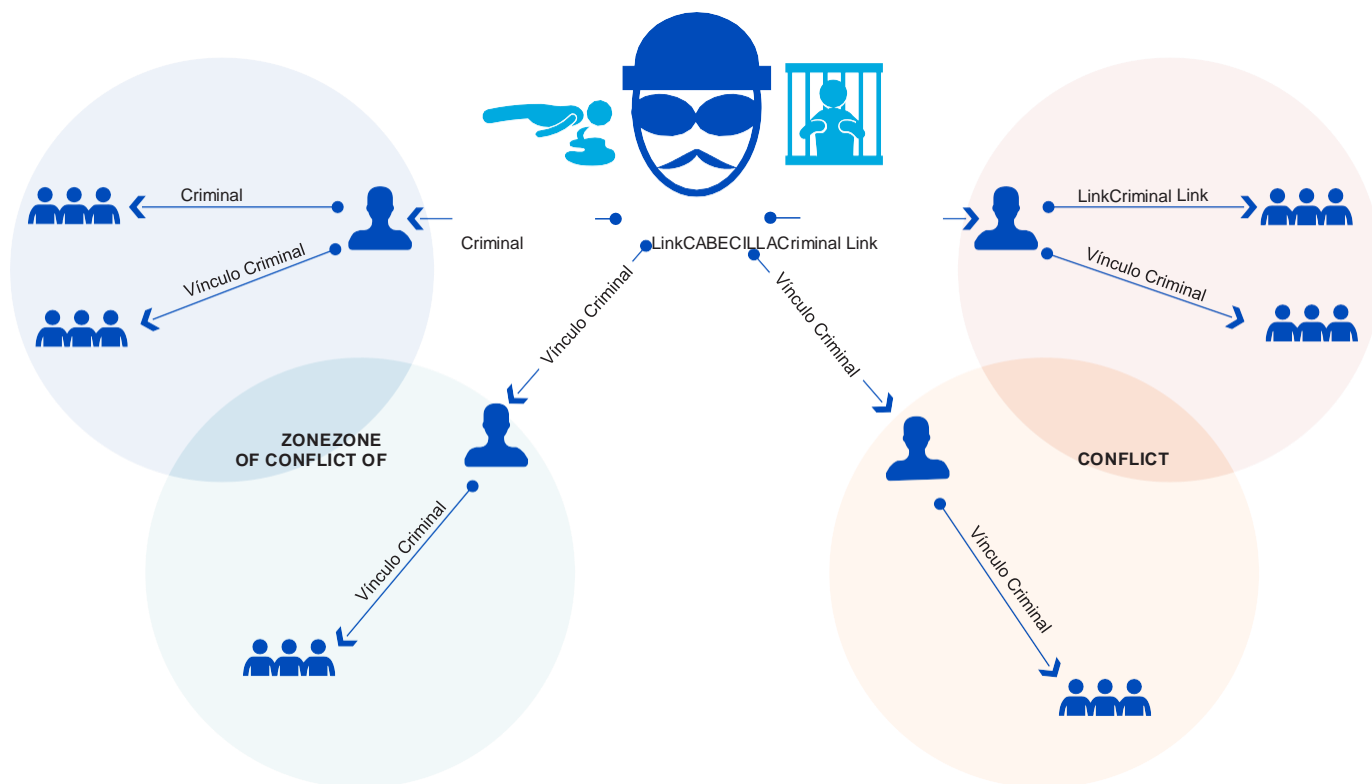
Criminal resilience functions as a factor in the recomposition of criminal structures, since the death or arrest of the ringleader, thus dismantling the organization, may result in some members who have not been arrested and who occupied middle or lower command positions, wishing to lead the organization that has been left leaderless.

The area of influence of the dismantled criminal organization is left without a clear dominator, however, the captive market dedicated to drug consumption remains intact without a supplier and, as a result of filling this vacuum, conflicts arise in the territories where the organization was established, as the remaining members of the criminal structure or other criminal groups wish to take over the area or territory in order to continue with the criminal activity, generating significant illegal profits.

This type of criminal recomposition occurs rapidly and means that Costa Rica does not present a consolidation of criminal groups over time; on the contrary, there are constant variations or mutations of part or most of the criminal group.



Figure N°12 . Criminal resilience



Source: Judicial Investigation Organism

The process of succession of the new hierarchy within the organization provokes the commission of homicides, injuries, threats and coercion, generating a spiral of violence in the country that negatively affects crime rates, requiring the deployment of police human resources to deal with this criminal maelstrom.

Aware of this situation, the judicial police, through a group of experts in crime analysis, is constantly monitoring the recomposition and transformation of criminal structures, as it has been observed that there are currently organizations divided into three or more subgroups, which begin to re-emerge after the arrest or death of their leaders.



RESEARCH CASE

During the year, the 2012, Judicial Investigation Agency dismantled a criminal organization led by a Nicaraguan nationalized Costa Rican national, whose purpose was to obtain economic benefits through illegal activities such as retail drug sales (local drug trafficking) and homicide for a price or promise of payment (hired assassination).

This structure maintained control over some areas of the province of San José (such is the case of the canton of Desamparados), and also gained control of other places such as Pavas and Cristo Rey, all using intimidation of "independent" drug dealers as a mode of operation. Additionally, it was a supplier of drugs to other organizations that trafficked on a medium scale.

The investigation lasted approximately two years, culminating in the execution of raids and the arrest of around 18 people, including the ringleader. These people fulfilled vital functions for the correct functioning of the criminal structure, carrying out operational and administrative activities, as well as triggermen.

Despite this schism, the criminal group's leader, while in prison, managed to keep the lower-ranking individuals, such as terminal salesmen, loyal to his objectives (due to the possibility of early release), allowing this latent threat of return to maintain the execution of his criminal activities.

However, with the passage of time and the confirmation of convictions for the accused, those who were loyal to him saw an opportunity for growth in criminal activity and emancipated themselves by deploying the same criminal model used by their former ringleader and in some cases improving it.

The emergence of these new criminal gangs with the same objectives converged in the same geographical area, which generated conflicts making them enemies, since their main objective was to maintain the dominance of drug sales in the same sector. This resulted in a significant increase in violence (homicides, extortion, threats, assaults, injuries, among others) in practically the entire province of San José, even extending to other provinces of the country, which had an impact on the increase in the homicide rate, which went from 9.9 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2014 to one in 11.5 the (2015 year of conviction of the ringleader).

Likewise, in the following years (2016 and 2017), homicides increase to reach a peak of deaths 603 with a rate of 12.2.

5.3. Persons assigned to the Penitentiary System

As part of the work of criminal investigation and analysis in which we seek to establish the causes of crime, the affected population as well as those who commit crimes, we proceeded to conduct an analysis of the data from 2010 to September 2018 on the records of persons assigned to the prison system in Costa Rica, in order to compare them with the detention records of the OIJ with a cut-off date as of 03 February 2018. 2019.

According to data obtained from the Ministry of Justice and Peace, during the period under study, a total of persons 14770 have been transferred from **Institutional Care Centers (CAI)** to **Semi-Institutional Care Centers (CASI)**. It is a benefit granted with the intention that the prisoner is reintegrated into social life before serving time in prison after having fulfilled some requirements...



Institutional Care Centers (CAI): this is the highest level of institutionalization, whose special feature is to enable the physical containment and deprivation of liberty (freedom of movement) of the person.

Semi-Institutional Care Centers (CASI): the population of this program is not confined in a closed center, but according to certain criminological and socio-personal conditions must comply with different processes of participation and insertion into society.

Source: Ministry of Justice and Peace



Based on the information collected, the years that register more benefits were the year with 2015 a total of people 2879 equivalent to 19.49% and the year 2016 with 2380 people benefited with 16.11%, of the total number of people transferred from program (Barquero, 2015).

Table No. Number 44. of people benefiting from the semi-institutional regime, as of December 31, 2007 2010 2018

Year	Grand total	Total Relative
2010	550	3,72
2011	662	4,48
2012	1297	8,78
2013	2159	14,62
2014	2340	15,84
2015	2879	19,49
2016	2380	16,11
2017	1675	11,34
2018	828	5,61
Grand total	14770	100

Source: Ministry of Justice and Peace

Table N° Number 45. of people benefiting from the semi-institutional regime, according to sex, as of December 31, 2007. 2010 2018

Sex	Grand total	Total Relative
Male	14108	95,5
Female	610	4,1
Does not indicate	52	0,4
Grand total	14770	100

Source: Ministry of Justice and Peace

It is impressive that of the total number of people with the benefit, 95.55% are men and only 4.1% are women.

The persons who were transferred to the semi-institutional regime discounted in the institutional care regime sentences for crimes (ordered from highest to lowest) such as: aggravated and simple robbery with 47.88%, in second place, those who have violated Law 8204 on narcotics and psychotropic substances and other related crimes with 33.46%, those who have committed sexual crimes with 7.02% and those who have executed homicides with 5.94%.

Table N° Number 46. of persons benefiting from the semi-institutional regime, according to the crime to 2010 which they were sent. 2018

Classification of crimes	Grand total	Relative total
Aggravated and simple theft	7072	47,88
Infringement of psychotropic law	4942	33,46
Sexual abuse, rape and petty corruption	1037	7,02
Qualified and simple homicide	877	5,94

Scams, forgeries and frauds	143	0,97
Aggravated and simple theft	114	0,77
Deprivation of liberty	82	0,56
Injury and assault with weapons	42	0,28
Trafficking and smuggling of persons	41	0,28
Manslaughter	34	0,23
Threats and extortion	32	0,22
Unlawful carrying of a weapon	29	0,20
Kidnapping for ransom	28	0,19
Others	297	2,01
Grand total	14770	100,00

Source: Ministry of Justice and Peace

As part of the study methodology, the 1,770 persons who were transferred to the semi-institutional regime were taken and compared in order to determine who had committed a crime after this transfer.

As a result of this comparison, there are people 3282 who report a "past" (police detention) in the Single Criminal Record (ECU) after the date of transfer to CASI, which represents 22.22% of the beneficiaries.

Of the total number of ID numbers registered (3,282) with a criminal record in the ECU after the benefit was granted, there are 1,266 ID numbers that are repeated on two and up to 25 occasions with a criminal record. The following table shows the first ID numbers with the most criminal records in the ECU after the benefit was granted.

Table N° Number 47. of people with benefits under the Semi-Institutional regime, with the most number of passes after the benefit at 2010 the end of the period 2018

Identification	Quantity
1XXXXXXXXX0 5	25
1XXXXXXXXX3 3	20
6XXXXXXXXX3 3	19
1XXXXXXXXX3 0	17
2XXXXXXXXX4 4	16
6XXXXXXXXX7 7	15
4XXXXXXXXX2 9	15
3XXXXXXXXX4 1	15
2XXXXXXXXX7 3	15
1XXXXXXXXX2 0	15
2XXXXXXXXX7	14



4

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism The
first places are listed below.

Of the crimes recorded, and taking into account all persons with one or more crimes after the date of transfer to CASI, crimes 6118 or "pasts" committed by the beneficiary are recorded.

Table N° Number 48. of people with benefits under the Semi-Institutional regime and number of repeat offenses after the date of transfer from the Semi-Institutional regime to 2010-2019*.

Year	Reg. Semi-Inst.	Crimes after benefit
2010	550	18
2011	662	55
2012	1297	148
2013	2159	323
2014	2340	545
2015	2879	804
2016	2380	1175
2017	1675	1279
2018	828	1614
2019	****	157
Total, general	14770	6118

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism and Ministry of Justice and Peace.

*The year records 2019, the ECU information until 03/02/2019.

Of the persons 14770 transferred to the semi-institutional regime, it is recorded which crimes 6118 were committed after the date of granting the benefit. Of the number of offenses recorded (after the transfer of regime), the beneficiary has repeated one or more offenses after being transferred from the regime.

The most frequently reported crimes are: crimes against property, violation of the law on psychotropic substances and the law on violence against women.



Limitations of the study

It should be clarified that the date of transfer to CASI is used as an element of comparison with the date of occurrence of a crime in ECU. The date of the end of the stay in CASI is not available, so it is not possible to be sure that the crime was committed when he was enjoying the benefit. Also, the comparison was made only by identification number (identity card, residence card and passport). Foreigners without formal immigration status are not considered.



Table N° Number 49. of people with benefits under the Semi-Institutional regime and number of repeat offenses after the date of the Semi-Institutional regime 2010 at 2019

Type of crime	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Aggravated theft	5	13	34	90	175	244	326	298	376	34	1595
Simple theft	1	2	8	20	26	38	68	60	112	10	345
Simple theft	1		1	19	20	42	68	56	111	8	326
Failure to comply with a protection measure (Violation of Women's Rights Act)	1	3	6	12	21	21	57	66	72	9	268
Illegal carrying of a permitted weapon		2	3	10	15	34	40	62	54	3	223
Theft	2	2	5	9	14	28	43	37	52	6	198
Assault with a weapon		4	7	5	15	20	29	40	37	4	161
Sale of drugs		2	4	9	9	22	32	40	42		160
Infringement of the law on psychotropic substances		2	10	19	24	22	26	21	24	1	149
Abuse (violence against women law)			1	1	4	20	26	34	52	6	144
Aggravated theft		2	5	10	14	15	26	15	48	3	138
Theft		3	4	7	8	17	25	31	39	1	135
Damages			2	9	6	15	28	25	34	5	124
Illegal Carrying of Weapons Permitted Weapon.inf.		1	3	3	9	10	26	33	28	5	118
Reckless driving	2		1	7	10	22	15	21	29	6	113
Transportation of drugs		1		1	10	12	28	24	21	2	99
Receipt			1	5	6	10	11	30	30	3	96
Scam		4	9	10	9	13	9	12	23	4	93
Resistance		1	1	5	3	9	14	22	25	1	81
Disobedience				1	4	8	8	21	32	3	77
Homicide		3	6	3	5	9	15	15	21		77
Drugs, introduction to penal center				1	2	11	18	25	8	4	69
Homicide, attempted			3	3	9	8	15	9	17	1	65
Aggravated robbery, attempted	1	1	4	3	7	9	11	15	10	3	64
Drugs, sale of				2	3	10	12	10	15	3	55
Others	5	9	30	59	117	135	199	257	302	32	1145
Total, general	18	55	148	323	545	804	1175	1279	1614	157	6118

Source: Judicial Investigation Organism and Ministry of Justice and Peace.

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