



Faculty of Legal Sciences

International Studies Career

**ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF THE ANDEAN
COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND THE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY AS REGIONAL POLICY
MAKERS TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**Degree dissertation prior to obtaining the degree
of Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.**

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DEDICATION

I want to dedicate this work to God for helping me
and showing me his existence.
To my mom, source of my strength.
To Coraima for showing me that love as a couple
exists.

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I thank all those who have been present in my life
and who have taught me how to face it.

To my friends, Wilson and Alberto for always
supporting me.

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friend in my university career.

To my girlfriend for being present in my good and
bad moments.

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Resumen:

Resumen

La Comunidad Andina de Naciones y la Southern African Development Community han buscado luchar contra el narcotráfico con una visión regional. Para esto se han centrado en este problema desde un punto de vista en el cual se observa al narcotráfico como un actor social, de este modo, es posible abordar a todos los involucrados, comenzando desde el cultivo de ciertas especies de plantas las cuales tienen como destino final la producción de una droga ilícita, pasando por problemas de expendedores, consumidores, tocando temas en el ámbito de la legislación y de la corrupción que causa este problema.

Palabras clave: Declaración 505, Palabras clave: Comunidad Andina de Naciones, Política Exterior Común, Protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region, Southern African Development Community

Abstract:

The Community of Andean Nations and the Southern African Development Community have sought to fight drug trafficking with a regional vision. To this end, they have focused on this problem from a point of view in which drug trafficking is seen as a social actor. Thus, it is possible to address all those involved, starting from the cultivation of certain species of plants to produce an illicit drug, through the problems of dealers, consumers, covering on issues in the field of legislation and corruption that causes this problem.

Keywords: Common Foreign Policy, Community of Andean Nations, Declaration 505, Protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region, Southern African Development Community



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ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY AS REGIONAL POLICY MAKERS TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING

1. Introduction

Drug trafficking is one of the Andean region's ongoing concerns. The CAN member countries have established policies in an attempt to combat this problem and improve the lives of their inhabitants, but are these laws adequate to meet the objective? In view of this, it is important to make a contrast with the policies that other nations have proposed and whose conditions have improved as a result. In this sense, this work is presented as a study of the policies established by the Andean Community of Nations and the Southern African Development Community to combat the problem and verify their effectiveness, respectively. For the development, a qualitative methodology is applied, since it is a bibliographic review.

1.1 Objectives

To be able to study the standards of the regional blocs of the Andean Community of Nations and the Southern African Development Community, which are focused on the fight against drug trafficking and their subsequent implementation of SADC standards to the CAN.

1.2 Theoretical framework

In this section we present works published in the network that are related to our research and that help us to orient the same and the theoretical concepts used in the sequence of the workshop. On the one hand, the bibliographic search was carried out in digital databases under keywords such as "Andean Community of Nations", "Southern African Development Community", "Drug trafficking in countries of the Andean Community of Nations", "Drug trafficking in the Southern African Development Community", "Policies against drug trafficking in the Andean Community of Nations", "Policies against Drug Trafficking in the Southern African Development Community", "Policies against Drug Trafficking in the Andean Community of Nations", "Policies against Drug Trafficking in the Southern African Development Community", "Policies against Drug Trafficking in the Andean Community of Nations", "Policies against Drug Trafficking in the Southern African Development Community", resulting in seven publications on the web, as well as on the official web pages of the Andean Community of Nations and the Southern African Development Community, which will allow us to know the investigations of the same regional blocks.

Background

On May 26, 1969, the governments of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru signed the Cartagena Agreement in Cartagena, Colombia. This is a constitutive treaty that begins by defining the objectives, mechanisms and, among other areas of work. Among its objectives we can find:

To promote the balanced and harmonious development of the Member Countries under conditions of equity, through integration and economic and social cooperation; to accelerate their growth and the generation of employment; to facilitate their participation in the process of regional integration, with a view to the gradual formation of a Latin American common market [...] to reduce external vulnerability and improve the position of the Member Countries in the international economic context; to strengthen subregional solidarity and reduce the differences in development existing among the Member Countries.

These objectives are intended to bring about a persistent improvement in the standard of living of the inhabitants of the subregion (Cartagena Agreement, 1969, Article 1).

Currently, the members of the Andean Community of Nations are: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru. It has five associated countries, which are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, in addition Spain, Morocco, Turkey are observer countries of the CAN.

Segovia (2002) conducted research on the Common Foreign Policy (CFP) of the Andean Community of Nations. On May 25, 1999, the Andean foreign policy adopted Decision 458, which expanded the guidelines of the CEP, establishing principles, objectives, criteria, mechanisms, modalities and areas of

action in this regard. Andean foreign policy is based on the legal instruments that are part of the Andean legal system and the values shared by the member states. These correspond to common Andean interests in political, economic, commercial and socio-cultural matters.

In order to verify compliance with the PEC, we have the Andean Presidential Council, the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers, the Meeting of Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Andean Community Commission. And these bodies rely on the coordination between Diplomatic Missions and international representations to work in three different areas, which are:

1. The economic area that works on issues such as regional integration, promotion of free trade, preferential access, international cooperation, trade promotion, foreign investment, trade in goods and services, international financing, intellectual property, agriculture, energy and transportation;
2. The socio-cultural area is dedicated to working on issues of Andean identity, social development and cultural heritage, and lastly, the social and cultural area is dedicated to the development of the Andean identity, social development and cultural heritage.
3. The political area, on which this work will focus, focuses on regional unity, democracy and human rights, multilateralism, sustainable development, drugs, corruption, terrorism and illicit arms trafficking.
- 4.

Although this region has sought to strengthen the PEC, it has become somewhat complicated because the agendas and priorities of the member countries in terms of PEC are still too individualistic, leaving a gap in relations with larger countries or regional blocs such as the United States or the European Union.

The CAN has paid special attention to the relationship with the European Union, forming the CAN-EU link based on four pillars (affirmed in presidential declarations (Sucre 1997 and Guayaquil 1998), decisions and different instruments), these pillars are:

1. Political dialogue;
2. Access to the European Single Market;
3. Framework cooperation agreement; and,
4. Specialized dialogue on drug control issues

Two agreements were signed in the fight against drug trafficking

1. The convention on the control of trade in chemicals that may be diverted for the production of illicit drugs
2. The cooperation and technical assistance agreement for the fight against drug trafficking in the Andean region.

SADC (1992) On August 17, 1992, the heads of state of the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Botswana, the Republic of Malawi, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Namibia, the Kingdom of Swaziland (now eSwatini), the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe signed the "DECLARATION AND TREATY". This declaration is about the union between these countries, to form the regional bloc SADC which has legal personality in the international community. In the same declaration we can find different areas of work which have been grouped into seven specific objectives of SADC, of which for the evolution of this work we will take literal g), last literal that focuses on regional integration as a means to find security in this area, which states the following: g) "politics, diplomacy, international relations, peace and security".

Currently SADC has increased its member states from ten to sixteen, which are: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kingdom of eSwatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As indicated in the 1972 SADC declaration, the Southern African Development Community is a regional bloc with legal personality, which is based on the principles of "sovereign equality of all Member States" which can be found in article four called "PRINCIPLES", in addition to the five other objectives mentioned above, of which we will highlight the following paragraphs: b) "solidarity, peace and security:" and c) "human rights, democracy, and the rule of law".

In the same way other areas of cooperation can be included under article twenty one (21) numeral four (4) "Additional areas of co-operation may be decided upon by the Council", in article five (5) we can find two lists which make reference to the objectives that SADC seeks to achieve, in this list we find eight objectives of which we can highlight the following: "(b) evolve common political values, system and institutions;"

"(c) promote and defend peace and security". The second list shows us how to achieve the success of the first list, with 10 tools or ways of working together, we have selected some ways of working for the SADC to meet its objectives that seem to us of greater importance for the topic addressed in this research, which are the literals: (a) "harmonise political and socio-economic policies and plans of Member States;" b) "encourage the people of the region and their institutions to take initiatives to develop economic, social and cultural ties across the Region, and to participate fully in the implementation of the programs and projects of SADC;" c) "create appropriate institutions and mechanisms for the mobilisation of requisite resources for the implementation of programs and operations of SADC and its Institutions;" f) "promote the development, transfer and mastery of technology;" h) "promote the coordination and harmonisation of the international relations of Member States;" and the last subparagraph, j) which is complemented by article twenty-one numeral four "develop such other activities as Member States may decide in furtherance of the objectives of this Treaty" (Southern African Development Community, 1992, Article 4).

The Southern African Development Community established the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980, attended by representatives from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland (now eSwatini), Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, who began as founding members and were later joined by Namibia. For the first twelve years of SADCC, it operated without a legal structure. The founders of SADCC decided to release the institution, in order to promote cooperation and coordination with formal integration. In this way SADCC decides to separate politics and security according to SADC considerations, creating already objectives to combat drug trafficking in a direct way, prevailing the principle of democracy, human rights and the rules of law. These objectives are:

- Safeguarding the region against instability from within and outside its borders
- Promote political cooperation and common political values and institutions (this commits SADC to the promotion of democracy and an observance of human rights).
- Develop a common foreign policy and joint international lobbying on issues of common interest;
- Establish cooperation in security and defense matters through conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- Establishing mediation of disputes and conflicts (Hussein Solomon, 2003)

The aforementioned objectives of SADC and CAN will help us to guide this work in an effective and efficient manner, in order to determine which regional policies are used to combat the problem of drug trafficking. Guided by the aforementioned, we will conduct an analysis of the policies and seek to verify their effectiveness, and then seek implementation in the Andean Community of Nations to improve regional policies and strategies to combat drug trafficking, taking into account the differences between the regions.

2. Literature review

The Andean Community of Nations, noticing the large presence in the region of production, sale of narcotics in and distribution to other parts of the world, decided to start a project in which they will be able to confront drug trafficking. But have his regional policies been successful? The reason for this research will focus on the analysis of these policies.

On June 22, 2001, in Valencia, Venezuela, the Eighth Meeting of the Andean Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Andean Community took place, in which the "Declaration 505" was issued, which deals with the "ANDEAN COOPERATION PLAN FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS AND RELATED CRIMES". This declaration states that the problem of production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs, plus the smuggling of chemical products for the production of chemical drugs, arms trafficking and, in the same way, crimes related to money laundering, is a variant that strongly affects the development and security of the region. It also refers that drug trafficking and all the crimes generated from it, including drug consumption, represent the most harmful and dangerous crime of international crime. In this way they use the principle of shared responsibility, as explained in the same declaration, emphasizing that each country's individual fight against drug trafficking and the crimes associated with it, can be boosted by the programs promoted by the Andean Community of Nations. All this under the legislation of each country.

We can see in this document that there are already guidelines to deal with the fight against drugs, which are preventive methods such as: prevention, interdiction, reduction of illicit crops and alternative

development, control of diversion of chemical precursors. These guidelines seek to cover all the intermediaries or actors involved in the whole process of this crime.

Now we can see that in decision 505, a plan was formed which would be carried out respecting the sovereignty and legislation of each country as previously mentioned. This plan is based on the formation of national strategies, the strengthening of binational strategies and community strategy.

In the following, we will develop these areas of action in stages, which are necessary to confront this problem and to understand how the fight against drugs is being carried out with this decision of the CAN.

1. Formation of national strategies: this area of action is divided into six stages:
 - a In the control of the production and smuggling and diversion of precursor chemicals. Here the Andean community of nations is trying to control the diversion of chemical substances used in the production of certain types of drugs. Implementing a mechanism of notifications prior to the exportation of this type of substances and with an effective response from the country receiving this merchandise. This is based on the 1988 Vienna Convention¹. Likewise, it also seeks to implement a preventive control to companies that produce, implement or commercialize any substance of this type. The way to control the entry of this type of substances is the identification of such substances, through training of government officials. In the same way, it is intended that the member states strengthen a technological structure to control the illicit production and smuggling of these substances, in the same way they should strengthen their control system in the area of transportation so that there is no smuggling of these substances, this through an increase in the infrastructure of the customs of the member states. Finally, it is possible to identify the needs of illicit industries, which are potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride and other types of substances.
 - b Technical eradication of crops grown for illicit purposes: This aspect seeks to implement or strengthen programs to eliminate crops that are intended for the illegal production of narcotics, taking into account the legislation or environmental standards established by the entities of the member countries. In the same way, it seeks to identify these areas of cultivation for their prompt elimination, in order to promote actions and coordinate with the different authorities in charge of eradication programs and alternative development programs. In this way, the promotion of alternative crops will be sought, fostering agreement between local communities and public authorities.
 - c Alternative development: In this segment, the aim is to create, promote and generate conditions in which farmers who own these areas dedicated to illicit crops can migrate their production to other products. To this end, it is necessary to identify the areas used for illicit crops. This will make it possible to identify the geographic sectors on which CAN programs will be focused, which will focus on financial, economic and technological matters, relying on private investment, trade openness and increasing the value added of these products, which do not have illegality as their ultimate goal. The added value is also intended to be achieved in a communitarian way, which is based on increasing these community organizations through sensitization, training and communication processes. In the national aspect of each member country, it is intended to strengthen the capacity of each nation to provide basic social services and increase the economic infrastructure in these areas. Finally, strategies will be designed and implemented to dissuade peasant groups, generally made up of farming families, from becoming involved in this type of illicit crop cultivation.
 - d Dismantling the infrastructure and transport production organizations: In this point it is necessary to achieve greater linkage and coordination between the law enforcement and security control agencies in which we have the armed forces or military and other security organizations that each member country has and the Judiciary. In the same way, coordination is sought in specialized intelligence actions in the fight against drug trafficking, ensuring the relevant exchange of information between the competent authorities. To achieve all this, it is necessary to increase the number of members of law enforcement and the Judiciary, material, financial and technological resources of the specialized units, which have been entrusted with the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes. The identification of laboratories which are used for the production of illicit drugs and clandestine airstrips whose purpose is the illegal transportation of such

¹ United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

substances, this will be carried out through the increase and strengthening of controls, which will help to stop not only the transport by air but also through maritime, river and land routes. The strengthening of these controls is also intended to prevent and impede the illegal trafficking of arms, ammunition, explosives and other materials that can be used by these criminal groups to attack, intimidate and confront civilians and law enforcement and security forces.

- e Money laundering: At this stage, the intelligence and financial analysis units will be strengthened in order to identify the different forms or modalities with which this type of crime is carried out and thus be able to carry out the respective controls; these controls will be carried out through the administration of international exchange transactions. The personnel of the above mentioned units will be trained so that they can carry out investigations which will allow them to identify certain sectors that are vulnerable to be linked to the crime of money laundering or crimes related to it; this training will serve to coordinate actions among these entities so that the intelligence units can carry out their respective financial analysis. Legal measures will be used to punish this crime, which are: the criminalization of money laundering, including other illicit activities which are carried out by these criminal groups, the confiscation of assets to which they are linked to it, this will be possible with measures to prevent money laundering in free trade zones and free ports.
- f Demand reduction: The aim is to reduce the demand for drugs by implementing programs aimed at curbing drug use; these programs will be directed at the family, community and school. These programs will be based on the mass dissemination of the report, raising awareness and educating society about the consequences of illicit synthetic drugs. This program is also based on education and training on new consumption trends to parents and staff of educational units, at different levels of education. It is also intended to support drug users and their families with the promotion of rehabilitation programs that go hand in hand with reintegration into society. At the same time, a constant follow-up will be carried out to verify the effectiveness of these programs. At the same time, programs will be implemented which will be aimed at people susceptible to drug dependency, these programs will be carried out with the training and formation of human resources in prevention and rehabilitation, encouraging and promoting the involvement of civil society in these programs.

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In this national plan we can verify that there are programs which are aimed at all the actors involved in this problem, ranging from producers to users and people susceptible to becoming drug addicts. Once this area of action has been analyzed, we will verify the other remaining areas.

2. Strengthening binational strategies: In this area of action, the aim is to evaluate bilateral agreements in order to review and update them if necessary. At the same time, we seek to promote cooperation between countries in terms of commissions, border workshops and neighborhood commissions in order to form a coalition dedicated to combating drug trafficking and illicit trafficking of arms and other materials related to organized crime, training of border authorities for the proper execution of operations by sharing information between border authorities. The incorporation of projects will be encouraged through the Border Integration Zones, which CAN has denominated as ZIF, including them in the Bank of projects in the margin of the Andean policy of integration and border development. The National Border Centers CENAF and the Binational Border Attention Centers CEBAF are expected to have an active participation in the control of trafficking of narcotics and controlled chemical substances, the same ones we mentioned in the point "Control of production and smuggling and diversion of chemical precursors", arms, ammunition and materials related to armaments. An evaluation of the binational operation actions will be carried out.
3. Community strategy: We seek to establish the exchange of information on new forms of trafficking and the diversion of chemical precursors, share the use of new drugs, the success of operations, maintain a registry of companies that import or export controlled chemical substances, promote the use of national, regional and international portals, such as Unidos Contra las Drogas through the previously mentioned page of the Andean Community (UCD), use the Venezuelan, Inter-American and European observatories that are active in drug trafficking or related crimes. Members will be encouraged to make recurrent use of communication mechanisms such as the Regional Liaison Offices of the World Customs Organization (RILO) and the Inter-American Drug Control Telecommunications Network (RETCOD), which seek to support the fight against

drug trafficking and related crimes. Likewise, with the support of the communication mechanisms, a joint coordination between the authorities of each member country dedicated to intervene in drug trafficking and related crimes will be sought, this will be possible through the assignment of a national official who will be the liaison with the other entities. Constant education of national officials dedicated to the fight against illicit drugs will be promoted, this constant education will be carried out in the Regional School of the Andean Community of Anti-Drug Intelligence (ERCAIAD), providing it with adequate financing, and in the same way, the creation and activation of the Andean School of Anti-Drug Canine Training should be supported. Agreements on judicial assistance in criminal matters will be favored, in accordance with the agreements in force. Each member country should assign prosecutors or liaison investigating judges, who will comply with requests for judicial assistance in the fight against drugs. The harmonization of legislation on criminal law and criminal procedure will be encouraged through meetings with the Ministers of Justice of the Andean Community, this will always go hand in hand with the coordination and cooperation mechanism that is carried out with the European Union and Latin America in the fight against drug trafficking. In addition, actions will be carried out in support of alternative development programs, incorporating the Andean Committee for Alternative Development (CADA). The Andean Committee for Alternative Development will be encouraged to participate as a specialized institution of the Andean Cooperation Plan. The exchange of information among member countries is intended to address money laundering, a recurrent activity among these organized crime groups. It is intended to use the guidelines established by the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) and at the same time it is recommended that an analysis be carried out by the Hipólito Unanue Convention (CONHU) in order to generate various strategies that will allow member states to act individually and communally according to their reality. Horizontal strategies will be formed which will focus on international technical cooperation. Identify. One measure to continue the fight against drug trafficking is to renew and expand the trade preference programs that will benefit the CAN member countries, with the aim of improving access to these markets and eliminating restrictions that hinder their use. The aim is to recover an actor that is affected and most of the time is hardly visible, this actor is the environment, for which it is intended that through international cooperation there are methods of prevention and mitigation, because, due to the development of illicit drugs, it aims at the recovery and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. The aim is to generate assistance to the sectors most likely to enter into the production of this type of substances, through international cooperation. The "Rodrigo Lara Bonilla" agreement, which refers to cooperation for the prevention and repression of illicit drug trafficking, will be evaluated. All these plans will be evaluated periodically in order to know the effectiveness of these actions.

These are the measures that the Andean Community of Nations seeks to implement in the fight against drug trafficking. It can be said that the Andean Community of Nations contemplates all the social actors involved in this crime. Now, we will analyze the measures with which the Southern African Development Community intends to address the fight against drugs.

For this purpose, on August 24, 1996, the "Protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region" was signed, which proposes a plan of action focused on the fight against drugs in the region. This document, like CAN Declaration 505, is based on the 1988 Vienna Convention, directly referring to articles 1², 3³, 9⁴, 12⁵. The "1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs" and its 1972 amendment⁶, the 2000 Palermo Convention⁷ were also used as a basis.

² Art. 1: In this article the definitions are given, in order to have a single interpretation.

³ Art. 3: This article defines the offenses and penalties for the same.

⁴ Art. 9: This article refers to the different forms of cooperation between states to combat the global problem of drug trafficking and related crimes.

⁵ Art. 12: This article is based on substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

⁶ The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs includes lists, final acts and resolutions adopted at the 1961 United Nations Conference which adopted this conference and by the 1972 United Nations Conference to review the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

⁷ This treaty aims to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, including illicit drug trafficking. It establishes measures for international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of crimes related to organized crime.

The "Protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region" focuses on addressing illicit drug trafficking in the region. It seeks to strengthen cooperation among member states. This protocol establishes measures and provisions to prevent, investigate and combat illicit drug trafficking, as well as to promote regional cooperation in this area. In Art. Two of this document we can find the objectives of this protocol. In which we can find:

1. To reduce and eventually eliminate drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as to reduce the use and abuse of illegal drugs, all this through cooperation among its members, seeking to generate agencies and programs to reduce the demand for these substances in the region.
2. Eliminate the production of illegal drugs in the countries of the SADC region.
3. To protect member countries from being used as transit or destination countries for various illegal drugs for international markets.

In article three, entitled International Conventions, we find that member countries that have not yet subscribed to certain United Nations Conventions must do so as soon as possible. In this list we can find three:

1. The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol.
2. The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances
3. The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

In art.4 we can find the national legislation. This refers to the fact that the member states shall promote and adopt domestic laws that satisfy the provisions of the three conventions that were explained in the previous article, the legislations shall contain, among other things, the issues of drug trafficking, the destination of seized drugs, measures to be taken against trafficking and the provision of mutual assistance, as well as the facilitation of laws and extradition between member states.

Article 5 speaks of the mutual cooperation that must exist between the member states, it establishes the measures of cooperation, however, the member countries may agree on other areas of cooperation or judicial assistance that are not included in the list. At the same time, there will be a person designated by each member state, who must be informed by the Executive Secretary, this person will be in charge of the requests for mutual legal assistance and will have the responsibility and the power to execute such requests. In this article we also find how the requests for cooperation must be presented, which must be presented in writing and addressed to the competent authority, this request must include certain provisions. The state to whom the assistance is being requested may request any additional information to execute such request.

Art.6, refers to an effective enforcement which should be linked to agencies which are in charge of security, and includes parameters to be followed for such law enforcement. It also seeks to create a regional database on drugs, which will be outlined in Art. 9.

In art.7 the protocol begins to show us the parameters to which the member countries must adhere. In this list we can find the following:

1. Policies and strategies should be elaborated and developed with the objective of reducing drug demand in the region; the fields of action of these will be: in the communities through prevention activities, public and school education, and research in order to address the causes of drug use.
2. The development of mechanisms to monitor the activities carried out by governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
3. Coordinate and promote public, private and business sector programs as well as NGOs for the development and implementation of programs focused on drug abuse and prevention.
4. Member states should establish facilities dedicated to the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts.
5. Programs that provide assistance to any worker linked to drug abuse should be promoted and carried out.
6. A cooperation program will be developed which will provide systematic information and data on narcotics abuse and trafficking and on the programs explained in previous points.
7. Train all employees involved in drug demand reduction programs and share such trainings for the region.
8. Promote the use of the necessary resources - human, financial or pedagogical - required for the development of programs dedicated to the fight against drugs.

In this article we can see that we have clearer guidelines on how to elaborate this joint action among members to address the fight against drugs.

Article 8 talks about corruption, in which it states that the member states must apply certain measures to enable them to act efficiently and effectively, and to implement cooperation between the various member

states and their agencies that are dedicated to combating this problem, which is a result or consequence of drug trafficking. They also dictate certain measures applicable to the member states to combat this problem⁸

Article 9 deals with the institutional arrangement, in which it states that a committee must be created in which the member states will participate, this committee will serve to follow up on the application of this protocol. It also states what the responsibilities of this committee will be.⁹

Art.10 frames the issue of dispute resolution, in which it states that any conflict or controversy arising from the interpretation or application of this protocol, which cannot be resolved amicably, shall be brought and submitted to the Tribunal.

Art. 11 amendments, which states that an amendment to the protocol requires three quarters of the member states. If a member state wishes to amend a certain part of the document, it is necessary to submit its proposed amendment to the executive secretary, who will inform the Council. And that all members must be properly notified three months in advance.

Articles 12 and 13 refer to the signature and ratification of this protocol. While art. 14 talks about the entry into force of the protocol. Art. 15 states about the accession of a state to this protocol, which does not affect Art. 8. And the last Art. 16, talks about the deposit of the protocol.

We can then say that the protocol is based on four common measures which are:

1. Police and judicial cooperation: There should be mutual cooperation among the member states in order to collect data and information directly or indirectly related to the fight against drugs, the exchange of such information and the coordination of efforts to investigate and prosecute persons linked to drug trafficking and related crimes.
2. Strengthening border controls: Member states will implement measures to strengthen border control and prevent drug smuggling across their borders, such as the use of detection technology, training of all personnel working directly or indirectly against drug trafficking.
3. Legislation and law enforcement: Countries will establish sound laws and regulations to address drug trafficking and strengthen their capacity to enforce these laws, including the training of specialized anti-drug trafficking security forces.
4. Prevention and enforcement: In addition to repressive measures, member states should implement prevention and education programs to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of drug use and abuse, addressing the issues that cause people to become involved in this crime and related crimes.

With this protocol we can realize which are the action plans of The Southern African Development Community. This will allow us to analyze the CAN and the Southern African Development Community, in order to solve the question of this research, which is: What type of norms and policies have been implemented by the Andean Community of Nations and the Southern African Development Community to combat drug trafficking and how effective are they?

3. Methods

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1. ⁸ Establishment of adequately resourced anti-corruption agencies.
 2. Establish an administrative and regulatory mechanism for the prevention of corruption and abuse of power.
 3. Strengthen and harmonize laws to curb corruption.
 4. Adopt procedures that allow for the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption suspects and persons linked to corruption, and implement witness protection programs.
 5. Seize, forfeit and confiscate assets and money that are directly related to acts of corruption.
 6. Provide legal assistance in corruption investigations and prosecutions.
 7. Create effective channels for the public to file corruption complaints.
 8. Disclose information about assets and investments of persons under investigation for acts of corruption and their dependents.
 9. Improve banking and financial regulations and mechanisms, preventing capital flight, tax evasion and the payment of customs duties.
 1. ⁹ data collection and dissemination that is directly and indirectly related to narcotics.
 2. Organize training programs on topics related to the war against drug trafficking and related crimes.
 3. Programs that need to be implemented and a cooperation program for the correct implementation of this protocol will be evaluated.
 4. They shall provide assistance to member states upon request and when appropriate.

The type of research carried out is an exploratory study. Taking into account the scope that we will have with the type of research, we will have to take into account that it will have a qualitative approach, since in this way we will be able to achieve a literature review, we will analyze the legislations while we seek to understand the same that help these regional blocks to combat drug trafficking in these areas, studying this problem as a social subject and its different behaviors, in order to meet all the parameters that we have proposed for this research.

4. Results

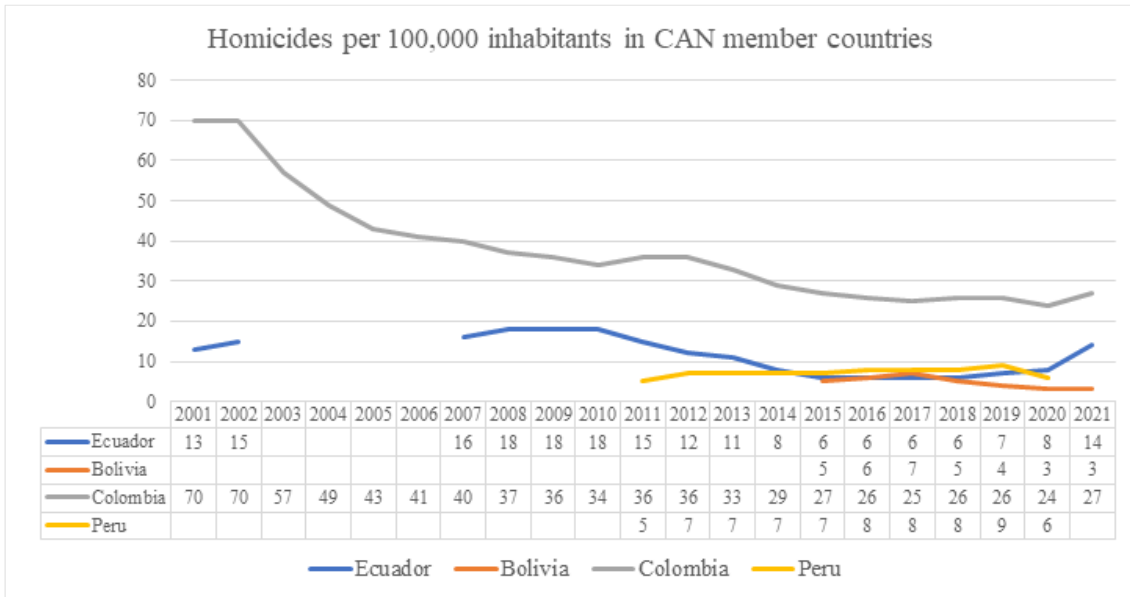
The Cartagena Agreement, signed on May 26, 1969, established the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) with the objective of promoting economic and social integration and cooperation among Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The main objectives of the CAN include the balanced and harmonious development of the member countries, the acceleration of economic growth, and the reduction of development differences among the member countries.

For the purposes of this work, we will consider the modifications created or updated in the CAN and SADC member countries, for their possible evaluation in the application and to propose the possibility of implementation or improvement in the CAN plan.

For the evaluation of the declaration 505 of the CAN, we need to be able to develop each country of the same and see how from the date of subscription of this declaration until the present they have improved, worsened or maintained their situations with the organized crime dedicated to the illegal drug trafficking. First of all, we will see what is the accumulated homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants since, as mentioned by the "Centro UC Estudios Internacionales CEIUC" in its publication "Political Risk Latin America 2023" in its section on organized crime, it mentions that Mexican cartels have permeated the infrastructure of different countries in the Latin American region, these Mexican cartels are the Jalisco Cartel New Generation (CJGN) and the Pacific Cartel (Sinaloa). It also mentions that there are several independent criminal groups that have managed to find ways to traffic illegal substances more easily (Rojas et al., 2023).

The following graph shows how the homicide per 100,000 inhabitants indicators have been managed since 2001 -when the 505 declaration was signed- until the year 2021.

Figure 1 *Homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in CAN member countries*

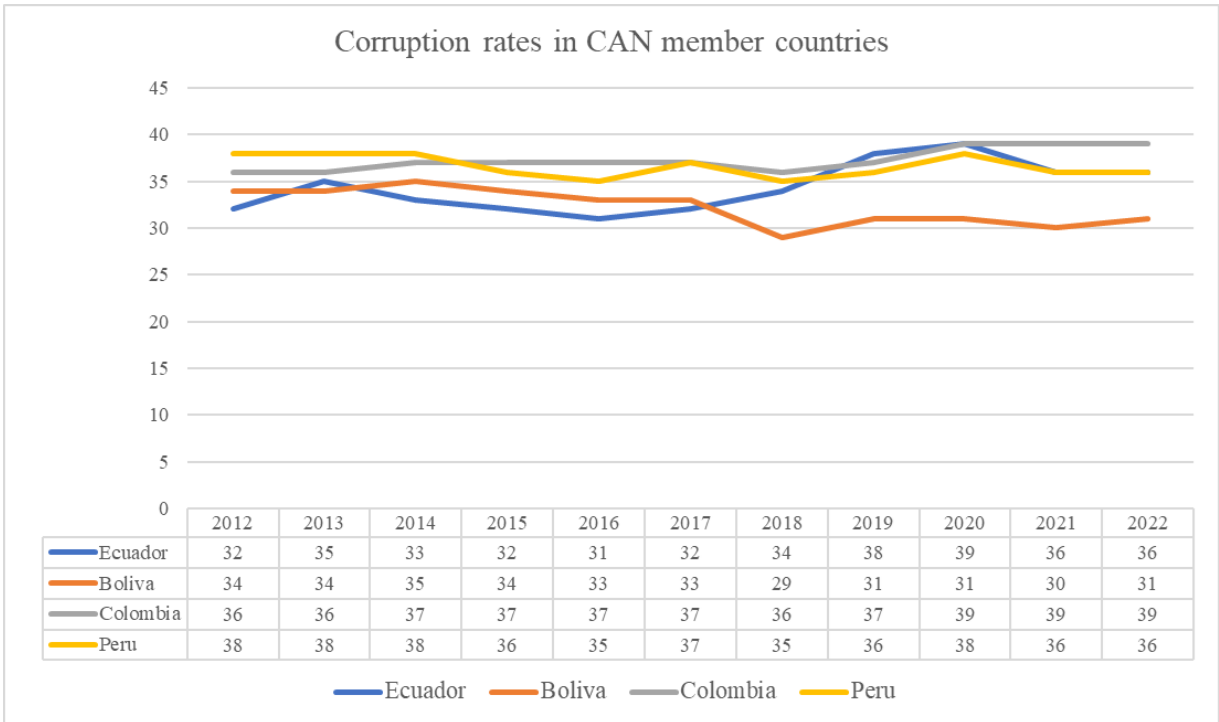


Note. Based on data provided by the World Bank (2023).

Data provided by the World Bank show that in Bolivia and Peru there has been a decrease in homicides in recent years. Although there are only records since 2015 in the case of Bolivia and since 2011 for Peru, the figures for the following years are very low and although there was a slight growth in both cases, the curve in the graph has begun to decrease. On the other hand, in Ecuador and Colombia the numbers have increased. On the one hand, Ecuador since 2001 has been managing low numbers, but there is a considerable reduction from 2014 to 2020. In 2021 the numbers soar with an increase of 6 homicides compared to the previous year. Colombia, on the other hand, had very high figures in 2001, however, in subsequent years these rates fell until 2021, when the curve begins to rise again.

We continue with another factor considered for this work: corruption. The graph shows the data collected from 2012 to 2022 in the countries of Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

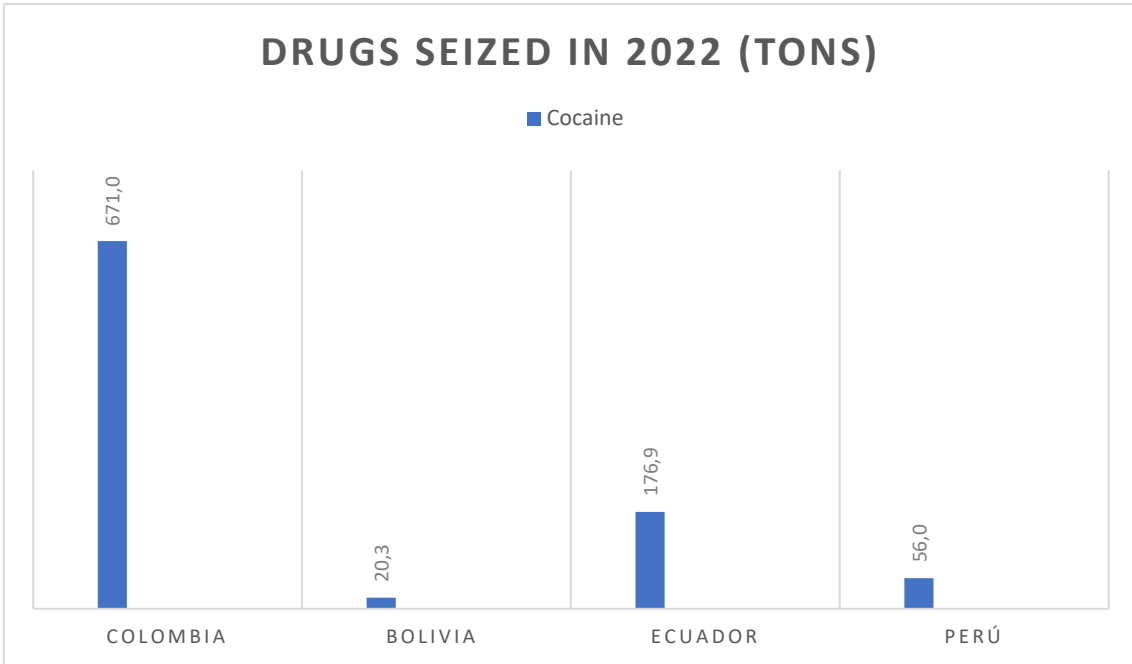
Figure 2 Corruption rates in CAN member countries



Note. Based on data from Transparency International (2021).

In the area of corruption, the country with the highest index is Colombia, which ranks 91st in the world. This is verified in the data presented in the graph, as they have remained with a slight increase in recent years. In these cases, the corruption index has been decreasing, however, in the case of Ecuador the numbers grew considerably in 2019 and are reduced until 2022. Finally, the country with the lowest corruption index in the CAN is Bolivia, which ranks 126th in the world list. The graph shows a decrease until 2018, which is when it begins to rise slightly and has been maintained. In this sense, although there are variations in the indexes of each country, all are managed with similar levels that are maintained over the years.

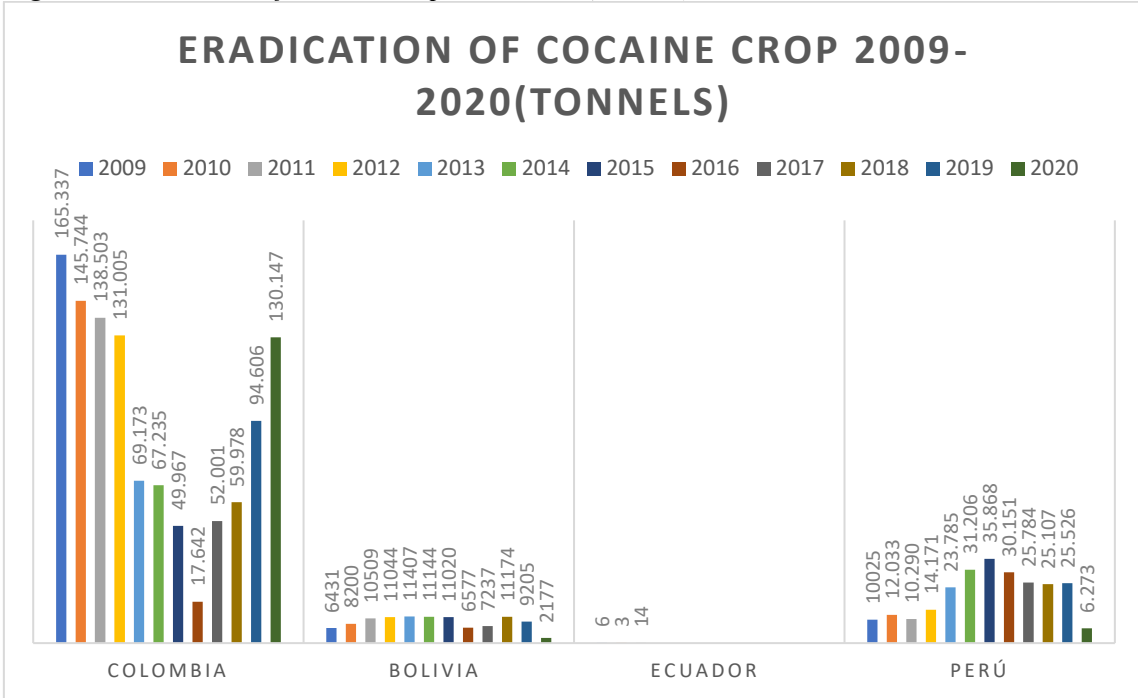
Figure 3 Drugs seized in 2022 (TONS)



Note. Based on data from Chevalier (2023) in Statistica.

The collected data represented in the graph shows the tons of cocaine seized in 2022 in the CAN member countries. In first place, we have Colombia with the highest percentage, 671.0. This is followed by Ecuador with a very clear reduction in contrast to the previous country, 176.9. Finally, the two countries with the lowest percentages are Peru with 56.0 and Bolivia with 20.3. In this sense, Colombia and Ecuador are the regions with the highest cocaine circulation in 2022.

Figure 4 Eradication of cocaine crop 2009-2020 (tonnells)



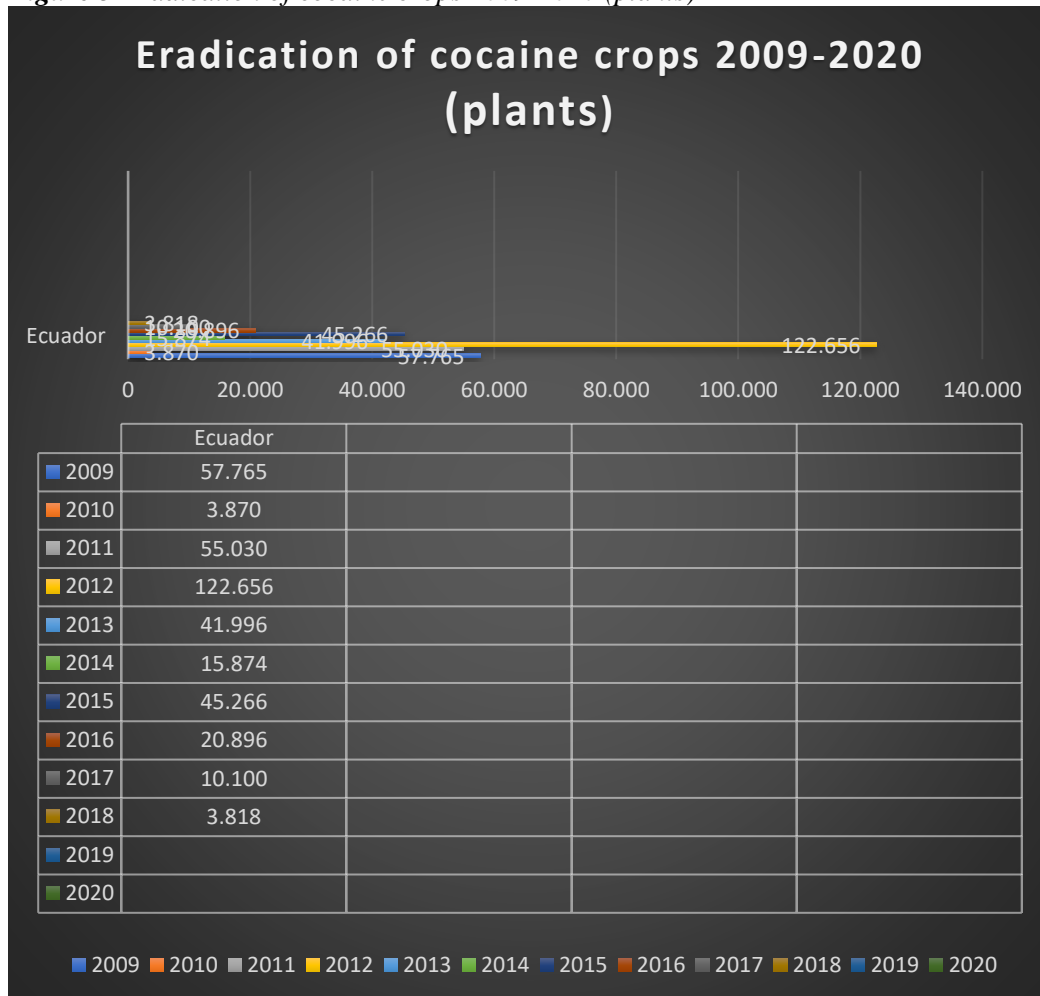
Note. Based on data from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022).

Regarding the eradication of cocaine cultivation by tons in Colombia, it is observed how until 2016 the elimination of the drug has been decreasing, however, from 2017 to 2022

there is a very high growth. In the case of Bolivia, the numbers have remained low and in the last year it is even more remarkable. Peru, on the other hand, shows a decline in 2022, although its numbers have been falling since 2016, which was the peak year.

Ecuador's data on cocaine crops eradicated by tons are very scarce in the records, and there is no data from 2012 to 2020, however, if there are data on the eradication of these crops by plants from 2009 to 2018, the data for 2019 and 2020 are not found in the database. The following graph shows cocaine data by plant for the previously mentioned years.

Figure 5 Eradication of cocaine crops 2009-2020 (plants)



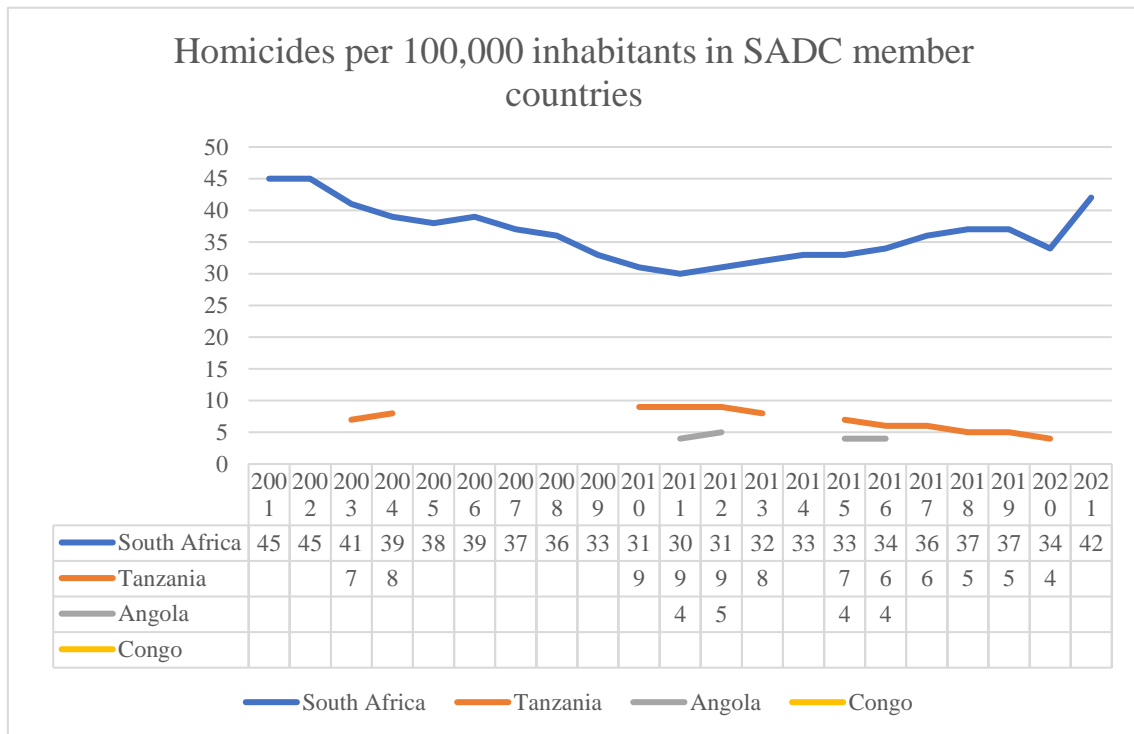
Note. Based on data from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022).

Since 2018 the eradication of cocaine crops was very low, but the activity was growing until the year with the highest productivity, which was 2012. From this year onwards, although the numbers dropped, considerable amounts are still managed and have been maintained over the years.

In contrast, we present data based on the same variables for the SADC member countries. In this case, we will take into account the four countries with the highest gross domestic product value as a sample of the group, these with South Africa with a GDP of 419.02MM

US \$, Tanzania with 67.84MM US \$, Angola with 67.40 MM US \$ and Congo with 55.35 MM US \$.

Figure 6 Homicides per 100,00 inhabitants in SADC member countries

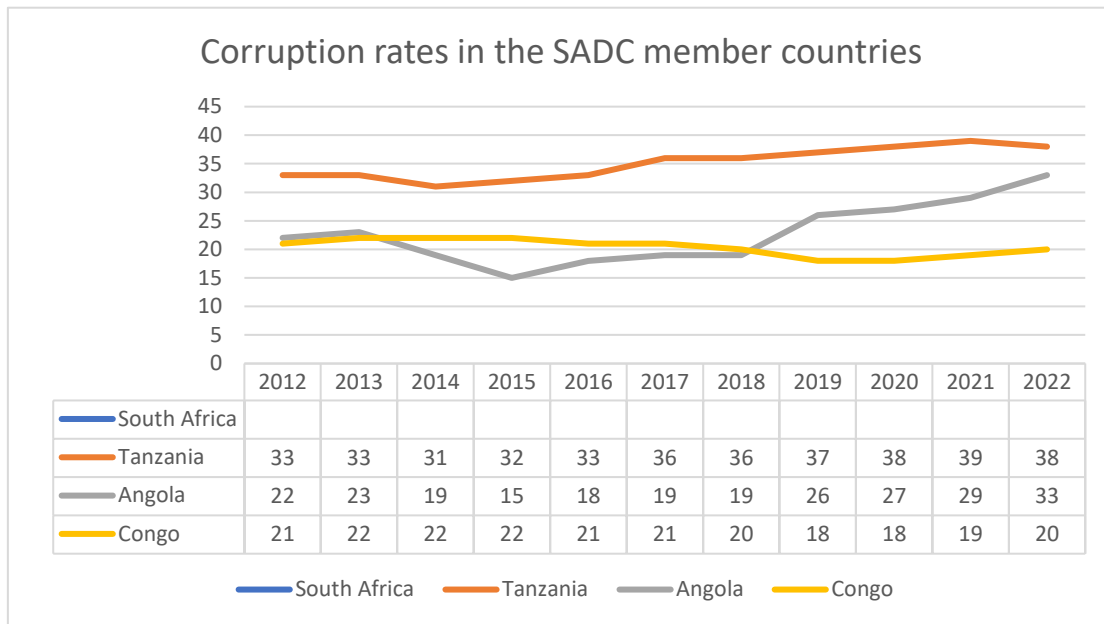


Note. Based on data provided by the World Bank (2023).

After the search, the graph shows the homicide data in the four SADC member countries considered for this research. First, South Africa with a growth of cases in recent years. Then Tanzania, whose records do not consist of all years, but we see that since 2015 the curve has been growing. Angola, on the other hand has very scarce data, only from 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2016. Finally, in the case of Congo, data on homicide rates in the country have not been found due to the conflict exported from Rwanda and the data are not provided by the government and those that are available are from independent organizations.

The following graph also shows the corruption perception indexes in South Africa, Tanzania, Angola and Congo.

Figure 7 Corruption rates in the SADC member countries



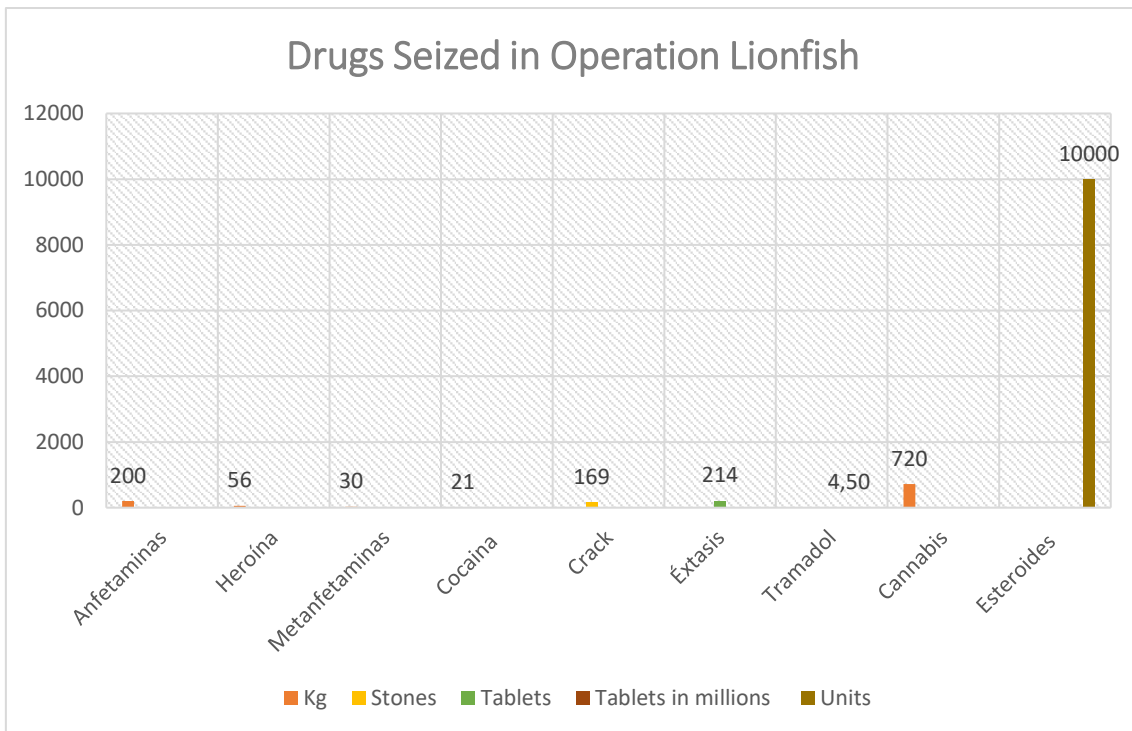
Note. Based on data from Transparency International (2021).

As can be seen in the graph, data for South Africa are not available in the database. On the other hand, Tanzania's index has grown in recent years. Angola from 2012 to 2019 maintained low numbers, however, from that year it began to rise until 2022. Finally, Congo for several years has maintained the same index range.

South Africa has become a country of massive arrival of drug shipments, as it has the largest maritime terminal in sub-Saharan Africa "Durban", these drug shipments come from Latin America, departing from the port of Santos in Brazil. According to reports of cocaine seized in South Africa, from March 2021 to September 2021 South Africa seized several quantities of drugs. According to reports we found that 1,000 kilos were transported in a fishing boat, 800 kilos in a jet ski, 541 kilos in a container hold and 715 kilos in a police vehicle. This gives a total of 3,056,000t.

Angola, South Africa and Tanzania participated in Operation Lionfish, which was executed by Interpol in the same year. In this operation 41 countries participated, resulting in the arrest of 287 people, in which 973 blocks of cocaine were seized in South Africa, valued at 32 million euros, in addition to these figures mentioned there were also seizures of different types of narcotics, which we will point out in the graph below.

Figure 8 Drugs seized in operation lionfish



Note. Based on Interpol data (2023).

Although these arrests are from the 41 countries that participated in this operation, it is clear that South Africa is a major player in the transit of narcotics. As previously mentioned, this is a crucial route for the transportation of narcotics from Latin America, these narcotics leave the Port of Santos in Brazil to reach Durban, it is presumed that approximately 20% of the narcotics remain in this region to be used as payment to traffickers and for consumption, according to reports from the South African Police Service (2021), the rest of the merchandise goes to Australia.

The air route also has as destination two of the SADC countries, Mozambique and Angola, which is the transit route to Europe and Hong Kong. The route identified for the European markets is Sao Paulo-Luanda (Angola)-Europe and the route to Hong Kong starts in the same way from Sao Paulo-Maputo (Mozambique)-Hong Kong (Ford, 2021).

The Congo, on the other hand, has not sought cooperation to attack and counteract organized crime, however, a new drug called "Bombé" has emerged in this country, which is consumed by people with low economic resources and it is predicted that 15 million people consume it. However, there are no exact data on arrests for the crime or drug seizures in this country. This may be due to the Rwandan conflict that was exported to the Congo in which more than five million people have died in this country since 1996 (El Universo, 2021).

With these data from the CAN and SADC, we can now analyze how these countries have jointly tackled the problem of drug trafficking. On the one hand, the CAN has shown that its regional policies dedicated to combating drug trafficking and related crimes are deficient because the tentacles of Mexican organized crime have managed to permeate the CAN countries, and it has reached such levels that these cartels have managed to permeate state institutions and this can be seen in the corruption data of the CAN

countries, with data from 2012 to 2020, the corruption rates of these countries are high and although there have been improvements in these rates are not really significant. One of the consequences of organized crime, in addition to corruption, is the violence generated by gangs that are now the so-called cells of the Mexican cartels: Jalisco Cartel New Generation and Sinaloa Cartel, which are located in the region, this violence although it is between criminal groups, comes to affect directly and indirectly to the civilian population generating chaos and insecurity. This violence is reflected in the homicide rates per 100,000 inhabitants, of this regional block the most affected until the year 2021 was Colombia followed by Ecuador and Bolivia, however in the last year 2022 Ecuador has increased its figures becoming the first country with the highest increase in violence with 82.5%, followed by Trinidad and Tobago with 35.0% and Haiti with 21.9%. Ecuador closed the year 2022 with a rate of 25.0 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, surpassing Colombia, which closed that year with a figure of 23.9. The problem of the increase of homicides in Ecuador is due to two important causes, the first is the increase of drug trafficking in the country and the second is due to a weakening of law enforcement.

In Ecuador, violence rates have increased since the death of Jose Luis Zambrano "Rasquiña", who led the largest and most powerful criminal gang in Ecuador called the "Choneros". This criminal group created cells of gangs which are the "Lobos", "Tiguerones", "Los Chone Killer", "Las Águilas", "Los Fatales" (Primicias, 2022). After the death of alias "Rasquiña", the groups tried to take control of the illegal drug trafficking routes becoming a power struggle that made notorious the settlement of the "Jalisco Cartel - New Generation" and the "Sinaloa Cartel" separating these cells and turning them into rivals forming alliances with the Mexican cartels (Café la Posta, 2021). It is presumed that "El Cartel de Sinaloa" forms alliances with "Las Águilas" and "Los Fatales", these cells maintain the name of the main criminal organization "Los Choneros"; while "El Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación" forms alliances with the cells of "Los Lobos", "Chone Killer", "Tiguerones". This division and power struggle to control drug trafficking routes has led to violence in prisons, generating prison massacres, in which the number of fatalities has risen to 413; this prison violence has not only been stagnant in prisons, but rather has moved to the streets (Gonzales, 2023).

The seizures in drug shipments also have a surprising analysis in the Ecuadorian case, although it does not equal or exceed the Colombian case, it has a historical figure becoming the second highest figure of drug seizures in the equinoctial country. Although we have mentioned before that the cocaine shipment in this country was only 176.9 tons, by the end of the year 2022, the total amount of seized drugs reached 201.3 tons. We see a large presence of narcotics in the countries of Colombia and Ecuador, followed by Peru and Bolivia, more, however, in Ecuador drug crops are smaller than those in Peru and Bolivia, occupying the second and third place in the eradication of drug crops respectively, while Colombia occupies the first place. Ecuador shows data from 2009 with 6 eradicated crops, in 2010 with only 3 crops identified and eradicated, and finally, in 2011, 14 crops were eradicated in this territory. But from 2009 to 2018 there was eradication accounted for plants for the production of illicit drugs, in which we can identify that the crops of these species rose until 2012 where the figures began to decrease until the last date indicated 2018 in which there is an eradication of 3,818 plants that were being cultivated with a destination of illegal processing of a type of drug.

Now, what about the SADC, for the purposes of this research we have decided to choose four countries from all the members of this regional bloc, we have made this choice because of their GDP and participation in the bloc. These countries are South Africa, Angola, Congo and Tanzania, as we have already mentioned above. We tried to cover the same indexes that we have covered with the CAN, although the data of these countries were not available, however, we have managed to filter and get the best results to answer the question: How effective are the regional policies created by the SADC to combat drug trafficking?

In the corruption indexes, we need to talk about the fact that in South Africa there is no data about corruption. However, the highest corruption rates are in Angola and Congo, being similar to those of the CAN countries, Tanzania, on the other hand, although it presents unfavorable statistics on transparency issues, they are better than the previously mentioned countries.

Congo is a very particular case in terms of corruption and homicide rates due to the inherited or exported problem and the resurgence of the M23 military group - a military group made up of Congolese Tutsis, which had been inactive for more than ten years - in Congo, which has generated even more problems with the Rwandan government. Due to these conflicts, as mentioned above, more than five million people are presumed dead since 1996, but this figure is expected to be higher, as is the rate of corruption (Castel, 2022).

Now, what can we say about homicide rates in South Africa. In this country the homicide rates to close the year 2021 closed with a figure of 42 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. The reason that South Africa has such a high level of violence is due to the increase of international criminal organizations that have set their sights and stretched their tentacles of organized crime in this country in order to control the drug trafficking routes to Europe and Hong Kong (Ford, 2021). Among these organized crime organizations are the aforementioned Jalisco Cartel - New Generation, Sinaloa Cartel and various Albanian mafias (Kemp, 2020).

While both Tanzania and Angola their data are very inaccurate, Tanzania and Angola closes the year 2021 without homicide data, and in the year 2020. The last data that we have to do of Angola is in the year 2016 with an index 4, international organisms assure that these numbers are unreal, presuming that this number could rise. Tanzania presents the same problems of data inconsistencies, but the latest data found is for the year 2020, closing the figures for that year with 4 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.

The Congo's concerns can be seen to be distanced from the problem of organized crime based on illicit drug trafficking, since, in the operation carried out by Interpol, this country was the only one of the four that did not participate in it. Meanwhile, Angola, Tanzania and South Africa have shown great interest in cooperating with other agencies dedicated to combating drug trafficking. Participating in operations with Lionfish in which there was a large seizure of narcotics and more than 200 people linked to this crime were arrested.

With these analyses we can now begin to answer the question that motivated us to conduct this research. What type of norms and policies have been implemented by the Andean Community of Nations and the Southern African Development Community to combat

drug trafficking and how effective are they? In response to this question, we can first of all state that the CAN has shown little action and stagnation not only in political matters but also in cooperation, since its last reports were issued in 2012. At present we see that cooperation for a joint war against drug trafficking does not occur in this regional bloc, each country is fighting its own war so the effectiveness of these rules that we have mentioned in the preparation of this research are inefficient and are outdated to the reality of the regional bloc. Since the tentacles of international organized crime have managed to perpetrate in these governments, managing to settle and generate violence and in turn increase the power of local gangs, as we have evidenced in the Ecuadorian case in which the Mexican cartels have given great power to these criminal groups whose main source of income is drug trafficking, since in this country the gangs have managed to have such power as to cause instability to the largest prisons in the territory. On the other hand, Colombia and Peru continue to be the countries with the largest plantations or crops of species destined for the creation of illegal drugs, followed by Bolivia and Ecuador. The plantations in the countries of Bolivia and Peru are due to the fact that the gangs dedicated to finding people to cultivate these plants look for indigenous people, as indicated by investigations carried out by journalistic groups (Blasco, 2021).

In the SADC, although we have noted greater attempts to collaborate with international organizations dedicated to combating the drug problem, there are countries that have left this problem aside because there are much bigger problems in their social realities, in these analyzed cases we can say that this happens with the Congo, which has left aside the fight against drug trafficking to focus on the military problem that their country is experiencing. However, this regional bloc needs more unity, so making an assessment we can say that the regional norms of these countries, although they cannot all collaborate, have had a little more weight in these times, but we see that as in the CAN these international criminal organizations have permeated their states generating higher rates of corruption, causing that the transparency of these countries is not the best, since the lack of data that would help us to better assess the problem of drug trafficking are not accurate in most cases. These regional norms need to be evaluated and modified since the problems they focus on cannot be in line with the reality of all their members. Now their regional policies should strive to control the issue of corruption and seek a peaceful solution in most of the territories of the region which as we know most of them have internal problems in military matters, these problems are not only seen in the Congo but also in Mozambique with insurgency linked to the Islamic State (Cidafucm, 2022). At the same time, they must also continue to combat the problems of gender violence that are more notorious than in any other region (Anacleto, 2023).

5. Conclusion

At present, the CAN's member countries are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and the community has five associate countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay), as well as observer countries such as Spain, Morocco and Turkey.

The Common Foreign Policy (CFP) of the Andean Community, adopted in 1999, establishes the objective principles, mechanisms and areas of action in political, economic, commercial and socio-cultural matters. The Andean Council of Foreign Ministers, the Meeting of Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Andean Community Commission are the bodies responsible for verifying compliance with the SGP.

With regard to the fight against drug trafficking, the CAN has implemented strategies and programs to address this problem in the region. Declaration 505, adopted in 2001, established the "Andean Cooperation Plan for the Fight against Illicit Drugs and Related Crimes". This plan is based on the shared responsibility of the member countries and covers areas such as the control of chemical precursors, eradication of illicit crops, alternative development, dismantling the drug trafficking infrastructure, money laundering and drug demand reduction.

National strategies to combat drug trafficking are divided into six stages: control of production and smuggling of precursor chemicals, eradication of illicit crops, alternative development, dismantling the drug trafficking infrastructure, money laundering and demand reduction. Each stage aims to address different aspects of the problem and promote cooperation among member countries.

It is important to note that the CAN's regional anti-drug policies face challenges due to the individual agendas and priorities of member countries and relations with larger countries and regional blocs, such as the United States and the European Union. However, the CAN has established links with the European Union through political dialogue, access to the European single market, the framework cooperation agreement and specialized anti-drug dialogue.

In summary, the Andean Community of Nations is committed to addressing the problem of drug trafficking and related crimes in the region through national strategies and cooperation among member countries. The fight against drug trafficking is an arduous and complex task that requires a comprehensive approach and the collaboration of all actors involved. The Andean Community of nations is committed to strengthening its efforts and actions to face this challenge through different means, of which we can frame the following: seeking to promote security, stability and sustainable development in the region. Through the implementation of joint strategies, information exchange and regional cooperation, the CAN seeks to reduce the impact of drug trafficking and related crimes, protect affected communities and promote a drug-free society.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has also played a significant role in addressing regional challenges, including the problem of drug trafficking and related crimes. Like the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), SADC has established strategies and programs to combat drug trafficking in its area of influence. Through cooperation among member countries, SADC seeks to strengthen border security, improve criminal justice systems and promote regional cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. These efforts reflect SADC's commitment to addressing drug-related problems and promoting a secure and stable environment in the region.

The Protocol to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking in the Andean Community Region for the Development of Southern Africa was signed on August 24, 1996. This protocol aims to address the problem of illicit drug trafficking in the region and strengthen cooperation among member states.

The main objectives of the protocol include the following

1. To reduce and eventually eliminate drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as reduce drug abuse and misuse through cooperation among member states.

2. Eliminate the production of illegal drugs in the countries of the region.
3. To protect member countries from being used as transit or destination countries for drugs for international markets.
- 4.

The protocol is based on several international instruments, such as the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

This document establishes measures and provisions to prevent, investigate and combat illicit drug trafficking, as well as to promote regional cooperation in this area. Reference is also made to national legislation, which establishes that member states must adopt domestic laws that comply with the aforementioned international conventions.

The protocol also stresses the importance of mutual cooperation among member states and establishes measures to strengthen cooperation in areas such as the prevention of drug use, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, information exchange and training of personnel involved in all work related to the fight against drug trafficking.

In addition, the protocol addresses the issue of corruption related to drug trafficking and establishes a committee to follow up on the implementation of this document. It also includes provisions on dispute settlement and amendments to the protocol.

In summary, the SADC protocol to combat illicit drug trafficking establishes measures and provisions to prevent and combat drug trafficking in the region by promoting cooperation among member states and building on relevant international conventions.

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