Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation
General Aviation concerns all civil aviation operations for purposes other than commercial transport. It uses many secondary aerodromes where there are few, if any, administrative controls. It is subject to less stringent security measures and inspection mechanisms. A fast and effective mode of transport, that can cover long distances, and can use small airports where monitoring is limited. Potential for clandestine activities, without transponders and with a high payload capacity. An exclusive means of conveyance with less rigorous controls at international airports. Improving security in this sensitive sector by stepping up international coordination and cooperation between Law Enforcement Administrations, competent authorities, and of General Aviation.
A Comprehensive and Innovative Project

**COLIBRI** is a unique, long-term Project that addresses GA as a whole: private international business aviation, regional and national leisure aviation, and FODQGHWLOHJ K W V.

A Project that supports the use of modern technology, the Geoportal and its mobile application, to monitor and control General Aviation.

An innovative Project that promotes inter-agency and international coordination and intelligence sharing through a multidisciplinary approach.

**THE COLIBRI PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO MAKING GENERAL AVIATION SAFER**

- As close to production as possible
- In cooperation with countries in destination zones
- In close coordination with partners in transit zones
Information about the Geoportal

The COLIBRI Geoportal stands out as a pivotal tool in this initiative. The Geoportal is a mapping and geolocation tool that aids law enforcement administrations in collecting data, analysing information, and obtaining intelligence for efficient risk assessment and control of GA. It plays an instrumental role in information sharing, both on national and international fronts.

Timeline of Implementation

**COLIBRI I**

JANUARY 2019 ––> MARCH 2023

Implemented in 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and West and Central Africa (WCA): Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal.

**COLIBRI II**

APRIL 2023 ––> SEPTEMBER 2026

Four additional partner countries, 2 per region, for a total of 19 countries. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay. West and Central Africa (WCA): Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo.
The latest WCO’s Illicit Trade Report emphasizes the dominant concern with illicit trafficking, especially drug trafficking, with organized crime groups (OCGs) continuously adapting and innovating their methods. General Aviation plays a critical role in global connectivity, but due to its characteristics, is increasingly exploited by OCGs for their illicit activities, thus requiring vigilant monitoring. The fight against illicit trafficking demands reinforced international cooperation to enable enforcement administrations to rise to the challenge imposed by OCG activities. Improving global security, and promoting the rule of law and sustainable development is a collective responsibility.

Status of the Threat

**The WCO Drugs and Precursors Programme**

The COLIBRI Project is part of the Drugs and Precursors Programme of the WCO and is being implemented in accordance with the Third Objective of the WCO Strategic Plan (2022-2025): “Protect Society,” and in line with the role of Customs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015, in particular SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

The COLIBRI Project is part of the Drugs and Precursors Programme of the WCO and is being implemented in accordance with the Third Objective of the WCO Strategic Plan (2022-2025): “Protect Society,” and in line with the role of Customs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015, in particular SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

A WCO Initiative

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A WCO Initiative

**The Global Illicit Flows Programme of the European Union (GIFP)**

The GIFP has been designed to be an effective mechanism for the EU to assist partner countries in their efforts to tackle transnational organized crime. It is also intended to serve as a vehicle for the EU and its Member States’ law enforcement administrations to achieve wider global reach. The programme supports the fight against organized crime on transregional illicit routes, be it in relation to narcotics and the movement of precursor chemicals, illicit arms trafficking, wildlife crime, or illicit financial flows.
Results of COLIBRI Phase I

Publications and Training Material
- Technical Handbook for Training on Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation published,
- E-learning course of 6 hours designed, and
- Geoportal Manual for users developed.

All resources are available in four languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese.

Capacity Building on Control and Inspection Techniques
- 25 national training sessions conducted on GA control, with 11 online and 14 in-person sessions, training a total of 767 officials.

Geoportal and Its Mobile Application
- Platform and features fostering monitoring and control of GA as well as sharing of information successfully developed and deployed.

5 regional training sessions were conducted on the use of the Geoportal and CENcomm, resulting in 152 trained officials.

Operation COLIBRI Rutilant (9 days)
- Operation Rutilant, the first internationally coordinated effort on General Aviation led by the COLIBRI project, involved 60+ administrations from 15 countries over 9 days, resulting in 1,435 events recorded in the Geoportal, the significant seizure of 948 kg of cocaine, clandestine runways discovered, and aircraft immobilized.
FIND OUT MORE

about the Drugs and Precursors Programme and the COLIBRI Project on the following websites: wcoomd.org and colibri.wcoomd.org or by contacting the WCO-COLIBRI Team at colibri@wcoomd.org

To know more about the Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP) of the European Union please visit: ZZZLOOLFLWRZVHX