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WACAP Newsletter #10, May - Aug 2018



WACAP

West African Network of Central Authorities
and Prosecutors against Organized Crime

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Training of Benin auditors

In June 2018, Benin organized the training of 78 new national justice auditors and 107 Congolese justice auditors at the National School of Administration and Judiciary of Cotonou. Mr. Lawani, WACAP contact point, prosecutor and Director for Criminal Affairs and Pardons, and Mr. Ahifon, judge, were selected as trainers for the initial training on, inter alia, economic and financial investigations in the fight against money laundering, terrorist financing, transnational organized crime and international cooperation in criminal matters. As trainers trained by UNODC through the WACAP initiative, they were able to contribute to this two-year training that addresses the current challenges of criminal justice systems in both countries. Newly trained auditors will be able to handle economic and financial crime cases such as money laundering, corruption and organized crime.

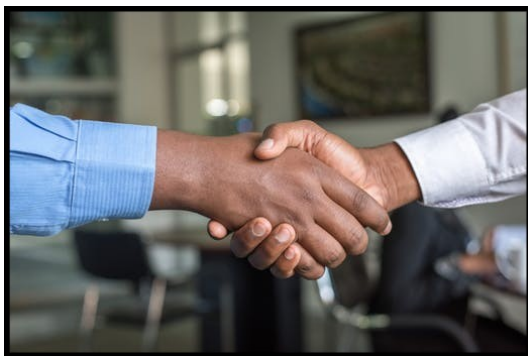


Success Story :
Senegal and Spain cooperate on the arrest and extradition
of a wanted rapist and killer

On 28 July 2018, the Senegalese authorities arrested a fugitive of Spain who had been sentenced to more than 26 years of imprisonment in his country for murder and rape. The fugitive reached Senegal by land from Mauritania by using false identification papers and was detained while trying to cross the Senegalese border with the Gambia. He remains in custody while judicial authorities process his extradition to Spain.

The WACAP contact points and judicial police officers of Senegal were involved in the case and were able to successfully manage the cooperation with Spain, because of the various UNODC/WACAP trainings on international cooperation in criminal matters that they received.

Burkina Faso intends to join the judicial cooperation agreement between
Niger, Chad and Mali



Burkina Faso is poised to join the Judicial Cooperation Agreement that was signed by the governments of Niger, Mali and Chad in May 2017. This agreement will enhance cooperation in judicial matters to more efficiently address terrorist groups who threaten the region as well as criminal groups

smuggling and trafficking people and other illicit commodities through the borders. This Agreement allows the parties to share information on suspects, to

conduct joint investigations and to impartially judge a national of one of the three signatory countries, among other prerogatives. These series of measures were taken to assist the three signatory countries in obtaining a faster, more effective and coordinated response against terrorism that will uphold human rights standards thanks to judicial control while also enabling authorities to address the reality on the ground. The WACAP contact point from Niger, Mr. Amadou Morou, contributed to the negotiations and the drafting of the agreement. Furthermore, Mr. Sagnan Tondjoa, the WACAP contact point in Burkina Faso, successfully advocated to have the Agreement ratified in his country. This bill was submitted at the Parliamentary session in September. By joining this protocol, Burkina Faso should benefit from the informal cooperation fostered by the document and will be able to obtain better results in the handling of incoming and outgoing mutual legal assistance requests.

CRIMJUST* and WACAP: Practical and Tailored Training for Officials of Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria

CRIMJUST in collaboration with the WACAP and the UNODC Project “Response to Drugs and Related Organized Crime in Nigeria” organized a joint three-day workshop in Lagos, Nigeria, on 16-18 July 2018 for 30 criminal justice practitioners from Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria. The workshop’s aim was to discuss and share good practices that may lead to measures to increase the efficiency of investigations and prosecutions of complex drug trafficking and organized crime cases.



During the workshop, participants were given the opportunity to discuss obstacles they face as well as good practices they identified during the investigation and prosecution of transnational drug trafficking and organized crime cases, with a particular focus on regional and inter-regional cooperation. Discussions focused on possible legislative and administrative measures to enhance mutual legal assistance (MLA) and other forms of international cooperation, special investigation techniques, inter-agency cooperation and models of functioning central authorities as well as related challenges and good practices. These discussions allowed participants to increase and/or review their knowledge of their respective judicial systems and of international and national legislative frameworks (including the Organized Crime Convention). The workshop used presentations, plenary discussions, group work

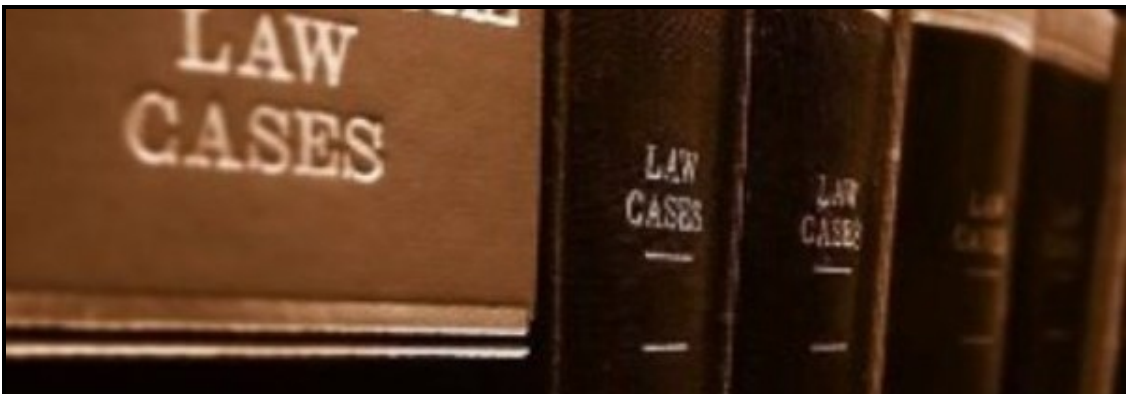
and case studies to explore the above issues.

*Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016-2020)

CRIMJUST – WACAP Training in Liberia on International Cooperation

On 9-11 August 2018, the National Project Officer of WACAP delivered a training on the legal framework of international cooperation in criminal matters for 27 magistrates, prosecutors and law enforcement officers of Liberia funded by the CRIMJUST project.

The participants were from the Liberian drug enforcement agency, the Liberia National Police, the Liberia Immigration Service, the Financial Intelligence Unit of Liberia, Transnational Crime Unit, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of foreign affairs, County attorneys and parliamentarians. They were able to effectively use the UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool, draft a complete request of mutual legal assistance and set the stages for a better cooperation intra and inter agencies.



Review of Draft MLA Law for Burkina Faso and Mali

In August 2018, a UNODC expert on international judicial cooperation reviewed and made written comments on the draft law on mutual legal assistance for Burkina Faso and Mali. An expert validation meeting will be held with national stakeholders in Burkina Faso and Mali before the end of the year 2018. (dates tbc)

Third informal expert group meeting to review the draft UNODC guide on combating falsified medical products related crime: good legislative practices

On 10-12 September 2018 in Vienna, Austria, UNODC organized its third informal Expert Group Meeting (EGM)

to finalize a draft guide on legislation to combat falsified medical products. This event follows the adoption of a definition of falsified medical products by the World Health Assembly in November 2017.



In accordance with resolution 20/6 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC has undertaken the elaboration of a technical assistance tool that will complement the already published UNODC model provisions and laws on drug control matters, organized crime, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, money laundering and on extradition and mutual legal assistance. This Guide is aimed at facilitating the assessment and strengthening of existing legislation, or the adoption of new legislation by States, and help support the provision of legislative assistance by UNODC and other organizations. The meeting was attended by five experts (a mix of prosecutors and regulatory officials) from West Africa (Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo and Nigeria).

We hope to do some work on this issue with our focal points and through the network beginning in 2019. Please let us know if you have had any experience with this issue or are interested in working on it.

Upcoming events

Event	Location	Date
WACAP 8 th Plenary meeting with the ARINWA network and the Maritime Crime Programme	Cotonou, Benin	20-23 November 2018
Expert group meeting to review draft changes to the law on mutual legal assistance	Burkina Faso and Mali	tbc
WACAP/CRIMJUST collaboration on international cooperation in criminal justice matters	Cape Verde	tbc



United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Vienna International Centre, Wagramer Strasse 5, A 1400 Vienna, Austria

Tel: + (43) (1) 26060 **Fax:** + (43) (1) 263-3389 **Email:** info@un.org

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