



**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME

WEBINAR

'CHANGING TIDES: THE EVOLVING ILLICIT DRUG TRADE IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN' - PAPER LAUNCH

Thursday, 3 June
13:00 CEST (Geneva)
12:00 (UK)
13:00 (South Africa)
14:00 (Madagascar)
15:00 (Mauritius)

REGISTER HERE:

<https://bit.ly/3bOxtt6>

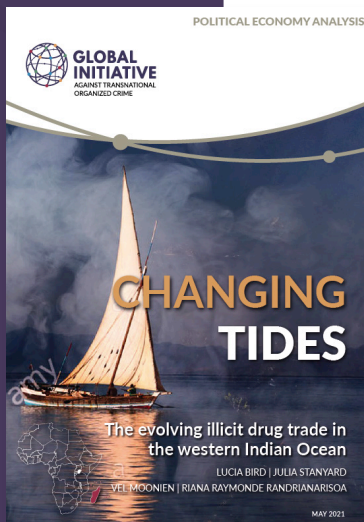
This event will be live
interpreted into French

The islands of the western Indian Ocean have been drastically impacted by illicit drug markets.

Mauritius and the Seychelles report some of the highest rates of heroin consumption in the world. Growing volumes of heroin are being trafficked via Madagascar, which also operates as a significant cannabis exporter in the inter-island drugs economy. Since 2015, long-standing heroin flows have been joined by a flood of synthetic cannabinoids, which have fundamentally disrupted drug markets in Mauritius, Mayotte and the Comoros islands. The drugs markets on the French overseas territory of Reunion have different dynamics to the other island states.

This event will present the findings of '*Changing Tides: The evolving illicit drug trade in the western Indian Ocean*', a new research report from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) by Lucia Bird, Julia Stanyard, Vel Moonien and Riana Raymonde Randrianarisoa.

The report documents how drug markets are expanding and diversifying in the island states, fueling corruption and driving growing domestic consumption.



SPEAKERS

Vel Moonien is a journalist with twenty-five years' experience, including fifteen years reporting on police affairs including investigations relating to drugs. He has been deputy editor in chief of l'Express daily newspaper and of ION News, a pure-player. A correspondent of Le Monde, the Quotidien de la Réunion and gCaptain, he is currently head of news and investigations at Défi Media Group, the largest press group in Mauritius.

Riana Raymonde Randrianarisoa is an investigative journalist based in Madagascar. She is a founder and the general secretary of the Madagascar Network of Investigative Journalists; she is an activist for press freedom in her country and a promoter of investigative journalism. She is also a recipient of the GI-TOC 'Resilience Fund' fellowship for 2021.

Lucia Bird Ruiz-Benitez de Lugo is a Senior Analyst at the GI-TOC. Her work has focused on human trafficking and smuggling, drug trafficking and cybercrime. Previously Lucia worked as a legal and policy advisor to governments in Ghana and Pakistan.

Julia Stanyard is an analyst working on the GI-TOC's Observatory for East and Southern Africa. She works on editing the Risk Bulletin of Illicit Economies in East and Southern Africa. Her research has focused on drug trafficking, drug policy and trafficking in cultural property.