World Customs Organization

Stronger together to address General Aviation threat: the COLIBRI Project of the WCO

Contract Nr. NDICI THREATS FPI/2022/438-769

ICMPD 6th International Border Management Conference

6-7 December 2023, Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye

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COLIBRI Project

GIFP Global Illicit Flows Programme

Funded by the European Union

Overview

- What is General Aviation?
- What is at stake?
- The COLIBRI Project in Brief
- COLIBRI Approach
- The COLIBRI Geoportal

What is General Aviation?

GENERAL AVIATION (COLIBRI)

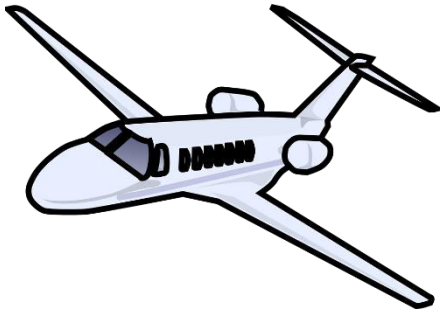
NON-COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

All ICAO-defined operations &

- Unpaid aviation for private, pleasure or sports use
- Ultralight or Amateur Aviation
- Aerial Works
- Corporate Aviation

What is at stake with General Aviation?

- Large variety of operations barely monitored
- Lack of or limited data regarding General Aviation activities
- Operating in scattered areas, notably in border areas
- Atypical profile of General Aviation users
- Limited knowledge of this vector by LEA officers



The COLIBRI Project in Brief

Funded by the European Union

- One of the initiatives placed under the umbrella of the GIFP (FPI)
- Start in 2019 as pilot
- Entered its 2nd phase in April 2023

Targeting General Aviation

- Vector significantly exposed to OCGs activities
- Used by criminal networks for trafficking within and between regions of origin, transit and destination

COLIBRI supports

- **Harmonized approach** to monitoring and control of GA (**Coordination** and **Training**)
- Exchange of information and joint response **among Law Enforcement Agencies**

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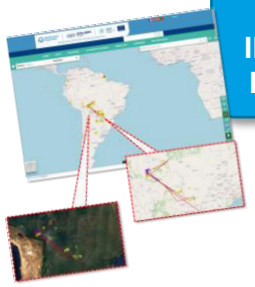
AWARENESS RAISING ON GENERAL AVIATION THREAT

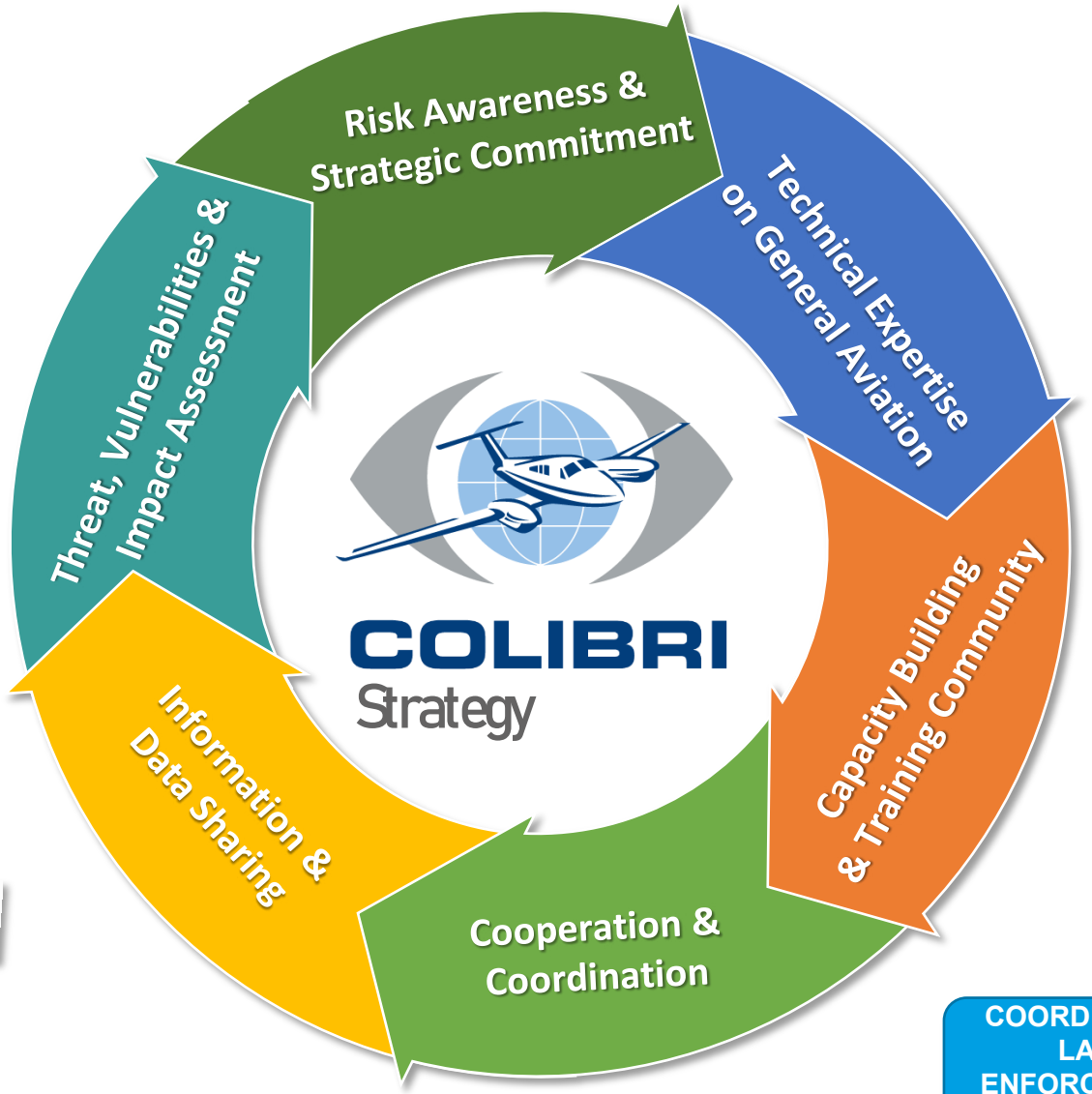
CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING OF TRAINERS

INTERAGENCY & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION & RISK ANALYSIS

COORDINATED LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS



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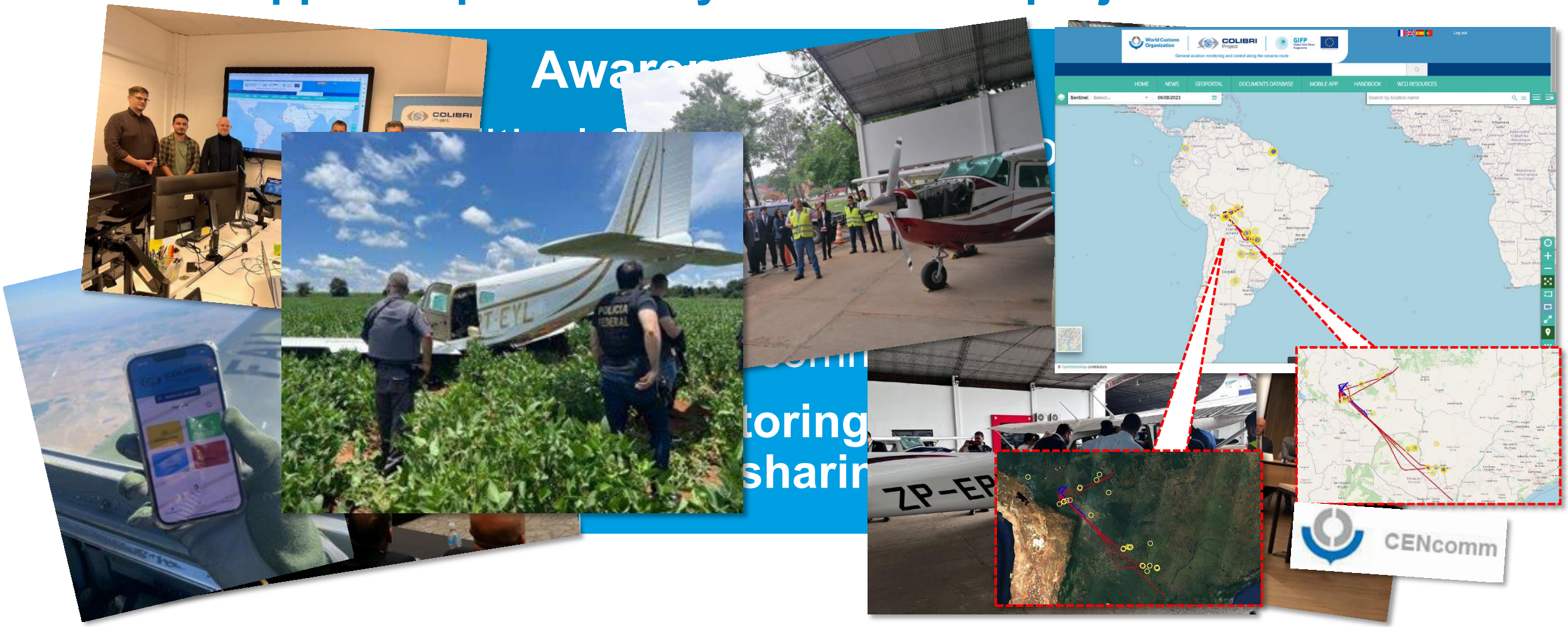
What support is provided by the COLIBRI project?



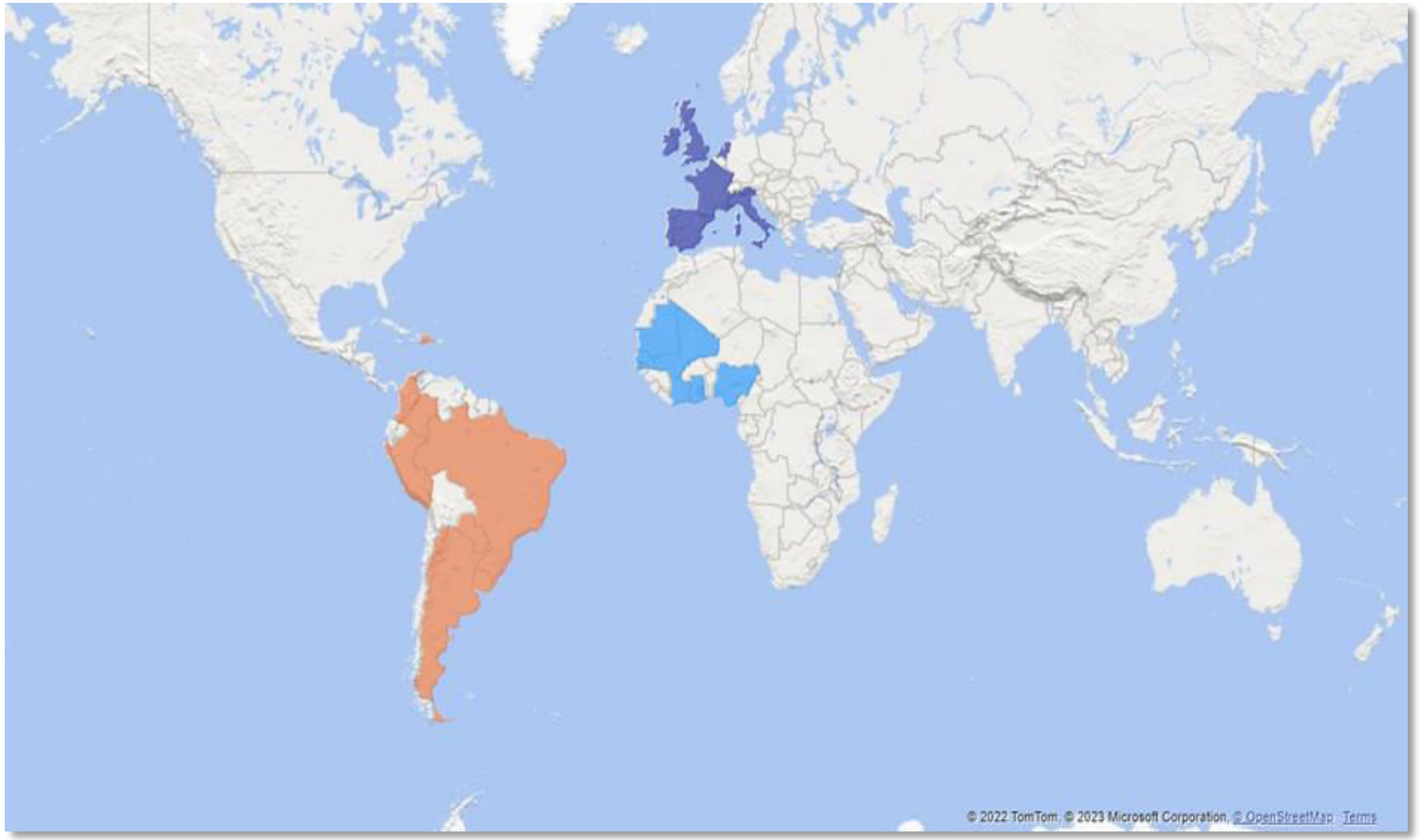
COLIBRI Approach

- **Raising of Awareness** about the threat
- **Support to operational coordination** and **cooperation**
- Facilitation to **sharing** and **exchange of information**
- **Variety of stakeholders** involved in full respect of their mandates:

  Customs, Police, Gendarmerie, Civil Aviation, Air Force, Forest Guard, Judiciary, Prosecutor's Office, Navy, etc.

- **National Technical Committees** / Inter-Agency Working Groups (nationally steered processes, further improvements of resources,…)

Where does COLIBRI Project operate?



- LAC Region
- WCA Region

ARGENTINA
BRAZIL
COLOMBIA
PARAGUAY
PERU
URUGUAY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

+

BOLIVIA
ECUADOR

CAPE VERDE
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
GAMBIA
GHANA
MALI
MAURITANIA
NIGERIA
SENEGAL

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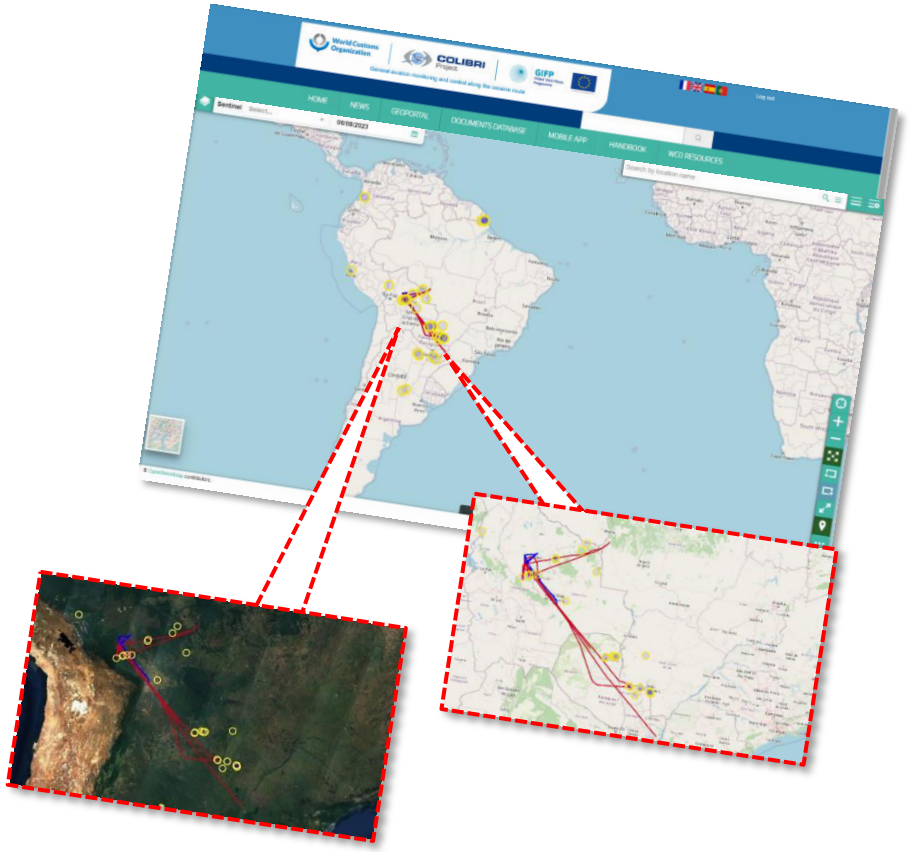
BENIN
TOGO

The COLIBRI Mobile App and Geoportal



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Trafficking in general aviation

Lack of centralized data	→	**No regional overview**
No updated statistics	→	**No trend - route analysis**
No insights on the magnitude of the threat	→	**No risk assessment**

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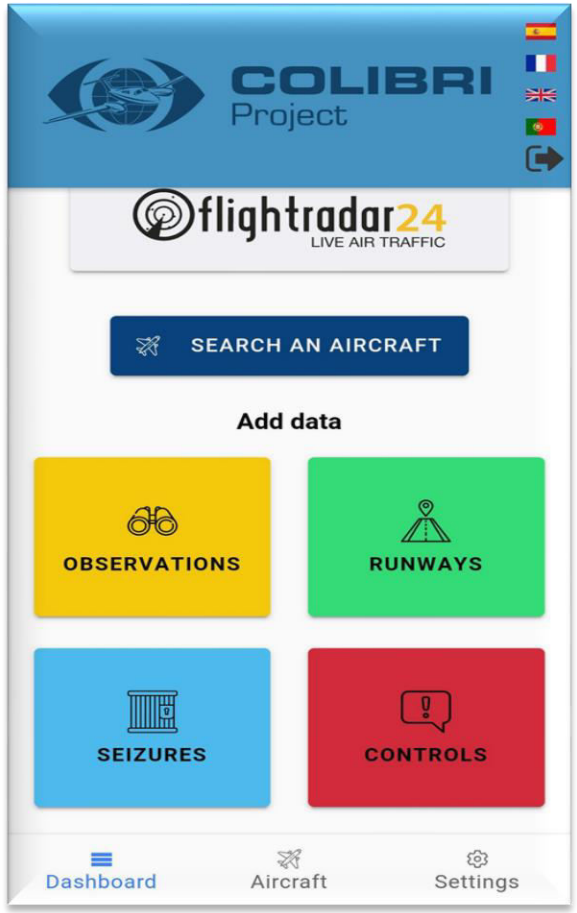
The COLIBRI mobile app

- ❑ Data collection
- ❑ Localization of different events



Android and iOS

Observations: Incidents, plane crashes or any relevant information

Runways: Legal or clandestine landing areas

Seizures: Drugs, money, firearms, counterfeit goods or any other illicit traffic

Controls: Positive or negative

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The COLIBRI Geoportal

- ❑ Mapping tool
- ❑ Visualize the history of:

✓ Controls
✓ Seizures
✓ Incidents
✓ Runways

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Some achievements:

- Increased **Awareness** about GA threat;
- Growing **Network of Experts and Trainers**;
- More regular and efficient Controls;
- Increasing use of **Techniques, Trainings and Tools**;
- Improved analysis on trends, routes, modi operandi;
- Strengthened Inter-agency and International Cooperation;
- …and more

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Together…

…we are stronger!

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Thank you

For any further information, contact COLIBRI Project Team:
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COLIBRI Project

Drugs and Precursors Programme