

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CANNABIS



CARIBBEAN CANNABIS LEGAL REPORT

2025



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INTRODUCTION



“A harmonized cannabis framework will transform the Caribbean into the Silicon Valley of medicinal cannabis and research”

Samé EPEE, CEO

This report provides a comprehensive overview of cannabis laws across the Caribbean, focusing on existing legal frameworks, economic implications, regulatory structures, and opportunities for reform. Additionally, for countries without formal cannabis legislation, the report includes tailored draft proposals designed to support responsible development of the cannabis industry. Our objective is to deliver an in-depth resource that empowers policymakers, investors, legal experts, and stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding cannabis regulation and its integration into national economies.

The Caribbean region presents a diverse and evolving landscape regarding cannabis legislation. With varying degrees of legalization, decriminalization, and prohibition, each nation in the region has adopted policies that reflect its cultural, social, and economic priorities. The rapid global shift toward cannabis reform, especially for medicinal and industrial purposes, has spurred several Caribbean countries to reconsider their cannabis laws, aiming to harness the economic potential while safeguarding public health and safety.

18%

Projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of the Caribbean hemp-derived CBD market from 2025 to 2030

\$312M

Projected revenue for the medical cannabis market in the Caribbean by 2025

\$200M

Estimated size of the Latin America and Caribbean hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) market



CARIBBEAN CANNABIS LANDSCAPE

The Caribbean Cannabis Legacy

Cannabis has been deeply woven into the cultural, spiritual, and economic fabric of the Caribbean for centuries. From traditional herbal medicine to its sacred role within Rastafarianism, cannabis has long been more than just a crop—it's been a symbol of resilience, rebellion, and community.

Yet, colonial legacies and decades of prohibition turned this plant into a tool of criminalization, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities. Generations of farmers and users were vilified, imprisoned, and stripped of economic opportunities, creating systemic cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement.

But beneath the surface of criminalization, the cultural bond with cannabis never broke. Today, as the world shifts its stance on cannabis, the Caribbean finds itself at a crossroads: to either remain shackled by outdated policies or to reclaim cannabis as a pillar of economic empowerment and social justice.

CURRENT STATE OF CANNABIS LEGISLATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

The region's legal landscape is a patchwork—some nations have embraced medicinal cannabis programs, others have decriminalized small-scale use, while many remain tethered to strict prohibitionist policies. This inconsistency has created barriers to trade, hindered research, and left countless opportunities unexplored

- Antigua and Barbuda: Legalized medicinal cannabis and permits religious use for Rastafarian communities.
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: One of the first in the region to legalize medicinal cultivation and export.
- Barbados: Established a comprehensive medicinal cannabis program with export capabilities.

Despite these advancements, many countries lag behind, missing out on the economic potential of a billion-dollar global industry. Regional policy fragmentation has also created challenges for cross-border trade and collective bargaining in the global market.



Expected value of the Latin America and Caribbean cannabis market by 2026

\$400M

Statista projects that the medical cannabis market will reach approximately US\$22.46 billion by 2026

\$22B

In 2024, the Caribbean welcomed over 32 million tourists.

32M

THE CASE FOR CANNABIS REFORM



THINK UNLIMITED

Reform isn't simply about tapping into global markets; it's about rebuilding economies, strengthening communities, and honoring cultural legacies. It's about ensuring that the people who have been most harmed by prohibition are the ones who benefit most from legalization.

25.5%

The global legal cannabis market was valued at USD 22.1 billion in 2022 and is anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25.5% from 2023 to 2030

8%

In 2024, 8% of the Caribbean population regularly consumes cannabis (at least once a month), which corresponds to approximately 3.5 million people

JUSTICE AND EQUITY

The Caribbean has an opportunity to lead—not by mimicking Western models but by building a cannabis economy rooted in cultural authenticity, sustainability, and social justice.

This is not just about cannabis. It's about sovereignty, resilience, and reclaiming power.

88%

Between 2001 and 2010, there were approximately 8.2 million marijuana arrests in the United States, with 88% of these arrests being for possession alone.

1974

In 1974, Dominica's Dread Act legalized the killing and persecution of Rastafarians—granting immunity for their murder, imprisonment, and forced shaving



THE GLOBAL CANNABIS MARKET

Globally, the legal cannabis industry is projected to surpass \$90 billion within the next decade. North America and Europe are leading the charge, while emerging markets in Latin America and Africa are rapidly scaling up production.

MARKET ANALYSIS

For the Caribbean—a region with optimal growing conditions, deep agricultural expertise, and a strong cultural connection to the plant—this is a missed opportunity of massive proportions.

Without a unified and progressive approach, the region risks becoming a bystander in a market it is uniquely positioned to lead. However, the potential isn't just economic. Cannabis presents a transformative opportunity to reshape public health strategies, drive sustainable agriculture, and correct decades of social injustices.

19.1%

CAGR of the global medicinal cannabis market from 2018 to 2024



68M

68 million potential medical cannabis patients in Latin America and the Caribbean



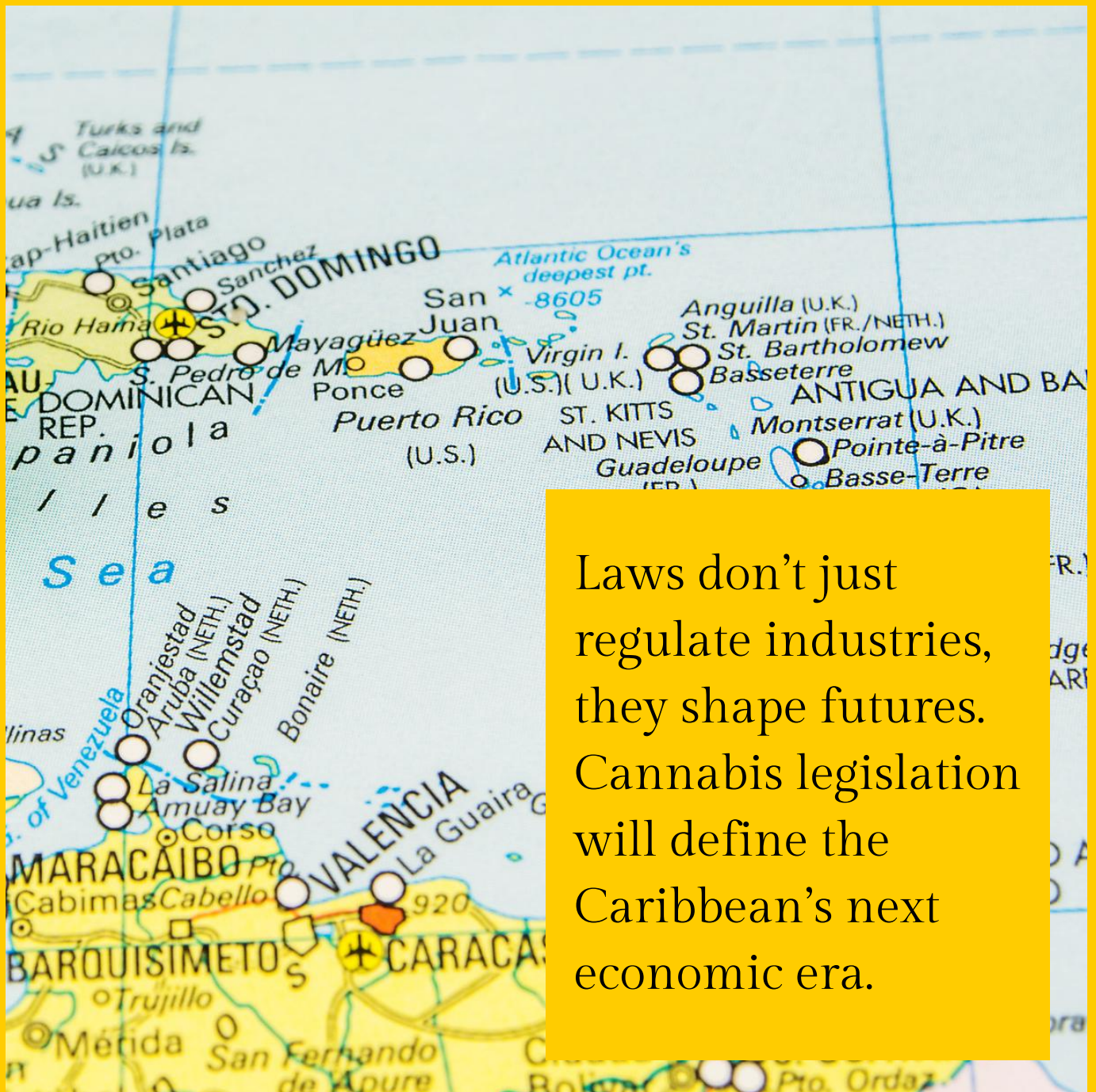
ISC Private Cocktail



27/03/2025
FROM 5PM
Dominica

Open to invited guests and ISC members
Engage with leading regulators
Network with international investors

COUNTRY PROFILES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS



Laws don't just regulate industries, they shape futures. Cannabis legislation will define the Caribbean's next economic era.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Legalized under the Cannabis Act, 2018 (No. 28 of 2018)
- Religious Use: Permitted for members of recognized religious bodies (e.g., Rastafarian community)
- Recreational Use: Decriminalized (up to 15 grams for personal use)

KEY LEGISLATION

- Cannabis Act, 2018 — Regulates medicinal, sacramental, and scientific use of cannabis
- Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2018 — Decriminalized small-scale possession
- Medicinal Cannabis Authority Act — Establishes the governing regulatory body



Regis Burton, CEO,
Antigua and Barbuda Medicinal Cannabis Authority

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA)
 - Oversees licensing, compliance, and policy development
 - Issues licenses for cultivation, processing, research, export, and distribution
 - Implements a national tracking system (seed-to-sale)

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Antigua and Barbuda offers various cannabis licenses, including Cultivation (from small-scale to industrial), Processing, Dispensary, Research & Development, Export, and Sacramental Cannabis (for religious use). Applicants must undergo background checks, provide security and environmental plans, demonstrate local employment initiatives, and address social equity for small-scale farmers.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Antigua and Barbuda enforces strict compliance through a seed-to-sale tracking system using RFID technology to ensure transparency across the supply chain. Regular inspections and audits are conducted at cultivation sites, dispensaries, and manufacturing facilities. Non-compliance can result in fines up to \$75,000, license suspension or revocation, and criminal penalties for illegal sales or distribution.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$8.5M

Potential Market Value

\$32M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$80M

Export Potential

\$14M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$20M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Patients in Antigua and Barbuda must hold a valid Medicinal Cannabis Identification Card to access cannabis for approved conditions such as chronic illnesses, cancer pain, PTSD, epilepsy, and other qualifying health issues. Registered religious bodies are permitted to cultivate and use cannabis for religious practices, with certain sacramental events designated as “exempt” to allow broader participation.

* SOCIALLY-DRIVEN LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Antigua and Barbuda’s Cannabis Act, 2018 (No. 28 of 2018) integrates social realities into its legal framework, explicitly safeguarding Rastafarian sacramental use by allowing registered religious bodies to legally cultivate and use cannabis for spiritual practices (Section 33), with provisions for designating sacramental events as “exempt” to permit broader participation (Section 34). The law also emphasizes social equity by prioritizing small-scale farmers in licensing decisions (Section 22), encouraging local employment through cultivation and processing regulations, and mandating community benefit initiatives. The decriminalization of personal possession—up to 15 grams and the cultivation of four plants per household (Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2018)—reduces social harm, particularly among marginalized populations, and fosters community empowerment. Together, these provisions align legal reforms with cultural respect, economic inclusion, and social justice.

BARBADOS



ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION

- Medicinal Cannabis: Legalized under the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019
- Recreational Use: Illegal, but possession of small amounts decriminalized with fines
- Religious Use: Not formally recognized, but medicinal access is broadly regulated

KEY LEGISLATION

- Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019 — Governs cultivation, processing, sale, and use of medicinal cannabis
- Sacramental Cannabis Bill (Proposed) — Discussions ongoing regarding sacramental use for religious communities
- Decriminalization Framework: Possession of small quantities leads to fines rather than criminal charges



Shanika Roberts-Odle, CEO (Ag)
Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA)
 - Manages licensing, compliance, and sector oversight
 - Ensures adherence to Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices
 - Implements quality control and product traceability measures

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Barbados' cannabis licensing includes cultivation (small to industrial), processing, retail dispensary, R&D, export, transport, and testing labs. Applicants must provide local ownership proof, environmental and security plans, community impact assessments, and follow social equity rules promoting local participation.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Barbados enforces strict compliance through a seed-to-sale tracking system that ensures transparency and product safety across the entire supply chain. Regular inspections and audits are conducted to verify adherence to safety protocols and cultivation standards. Non-compliance results in significant penalties, including fines of up to \$100,000 USD, license suspension or revocation, and potential criminal charges for unauthorized cultivation or sales.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$14.5M

Potential Market Value

\$33M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$120M

Export Potential

\$18M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$29M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Barbados' cannabis framework emphasizes public health and social equity by ensuring patient access to medicinal cannabis through prescriptions from certified medical practitioners for conditions like chronic pain, cancer, epilepsy, PTSD, and other qualifying illnesses. The law promotes community inclusion by prioritizing small-scale farmers and local businesses in licensing, alongside providing financial support and training programs for underrepresented communities.

* A PATIENT-CENTERED, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE FRAMEWORK

Barbados' Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019 aligns with the island's social realities by promoting patient access (Section 24) to medicinal cannabis for chronic pain, cancer, PTSD, and other conditions through certified prescriptions. The law embeds social equity clauses (Section 16) prioritizing small-scale farmers and local businesses in licensing, while offering financial aid and training programs (Section 28) to empower underrepresented communities. Public health campaigns (Section 32) focus on responsible use and community education. While recreational use remains illegal, decriminalization policies reduce criminal penalties for minor possession, fostering social justice and economic inclusion.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS



ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION

- Medicinal Cannabis: Legalized under the Cannabis Act, 2020, permitting cultivation, prescription, and use for qualifying medical conditions.
- Religious Use: Permitted at registered places of worship for spiritual healing, upliftment, and edification.
- Recreational Use: Not explicitly legalized, but possession limits and licensing systems regulate personal use.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Cannabis Act, 2020 (No. 8 of 2020) — Establishes the Medicinal Cannabis Authority to regulate, monitor, and control the cultivation, supply, possession, production, and use of medicinal cannabis.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA)
 - Develops policies, procedures, and guidelines for safe and regulated access to medicinal cannabis.
 - Oversees licensing for cultivation, distribution, dispensing, and research.
 - Enforces compliance through inspections, audits, and penalties.
 - Maintains an electronic seed-to-sale tracking system.



Dr. M. Garfield Alexander
CEO, Medicinal Cannabis Authority

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Saint Kitts and Nevis offers licenses for cultivation (small to industrial), processing, retail dispensaries, research, export, transportation, and testing. A Traditional Cultivators License prioritizes local farmers. Applicants must prove local ownership or partnerships, meet security and environmental standards, and conduct community impact assessments to ensure sustainable industry growth.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

A seed-to-sale tracking system ensures transparency, product safety, and market integrity. Regular inspections and audits verify compliance at cultivation, processing, and retail levels. Violations result in fines up to \$75,000 USD, license suspension, or criminal prosecution, ensuring a strictly regulated industry.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$2M

Potential Market Value

\$18M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$12M

Export Potential

\$12M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$15M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Medicinal cannabis is available to registered patients with a valid prescription for chronic pain, epilepsy, PTSD, and cancer. Social equity programs support small-scale farmers and local businesses through financial aid and training. Public education campaigns promote responsible use, legal rights, and health benefits, ensuring broad social inclusion.

* A MODEL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC INCLUSION, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

The Cannabis Act, 2020 reflects Saint Kitts and Nevis' commitment to social justice, economic inclusion, and religious freedom. The Sacramental Cannabis Act, 2020 (Section 35) grants Rastafarians legal rights to cultivate and use cannabis for religious purposes, aligning cannabis reform with cultural traditions. The Traditional Cultivators Licensing Program (Section 22) ensures that local farmers receive priority access to the industry, preventing corporate dominance. The Central Cannabis Trading Entity (Section 41) stabilizes the market by regulating pricing, ensuring fair trade, and preventing economic exploitation. Additionally, decriminalization policies (Section 14) reduce social harm by replacing criminal penalties for minor possession offenses with civil fines, leading to lower incarceration rates and more equitable justice outcomes.

SAINT LUCIA



ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION

- Medicinal Cannabis: Legalized under the Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Act, 2025, with Class One (low THC) and Class Two (high THC, prescription-required) categories.
- Religious Use: Legally recognized for Rastafarian communities and other approved religious groups, permitting sacramental cultivation and use.
- Recreational Use: Decriminalized for possession of up to 30 grams and cultivation of four plants for personal use.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Act, 2025 — Regulates medicinal, sacramental, industrial, and scientific use of cannabis and industrial hemp.
- Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act — Amended to decriminalize possession of up to 30 grams of cannabis and permit the cultivation of up to four plants per household.
- Cannabis Advisory Council Act — Establishes the Cannabis Advisory Council to oversee policy guidance and industry regulation.



Dylan Norbert-Inglis
CEO, Regulated Substances
Authority

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Cannabis Advisory Council:
 - Appointed to guide cannabis policy and oversee the development of the cannabis industry.
 - Works in conjunction with the Regulated Substances Authority for licensing and compliance.
 - Ensures coordination between health, commerce, and agricultural sectors.
- Regulated Substances Authority:
 - Responsible for issuing licenses, enforcing compliance, and maintaining industry standards.
 - Manages seed-to-sale tracking and ensures adherence to public health and safety protocols.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Saint Lucia offers licenses for cultivation (small to industrial scale), processing and manufacturing, dispensaries, research & development, export, transportation, and laboratory testing. Applicants must meet requirements such as proof of local ownership or partnerships, detailed environmental and security compliance plans, and community impact assessments. The framework includes social equity provisions to support small-scale farmers and underrepresented communities.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The seed-to-sale tracking system ensures transparency and consumer safety across the supply chain. Regular inspections and audits are conducted by the Regulated Substances Authority to maintain compliance. Violations may result in fines up to \$100,000 USD, license suspensions or revocations, and criminal charges for unauthorized cultivation or sales.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$5M

Potential Market Value

\$30M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$25M

Export Potential

\$16M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$28M

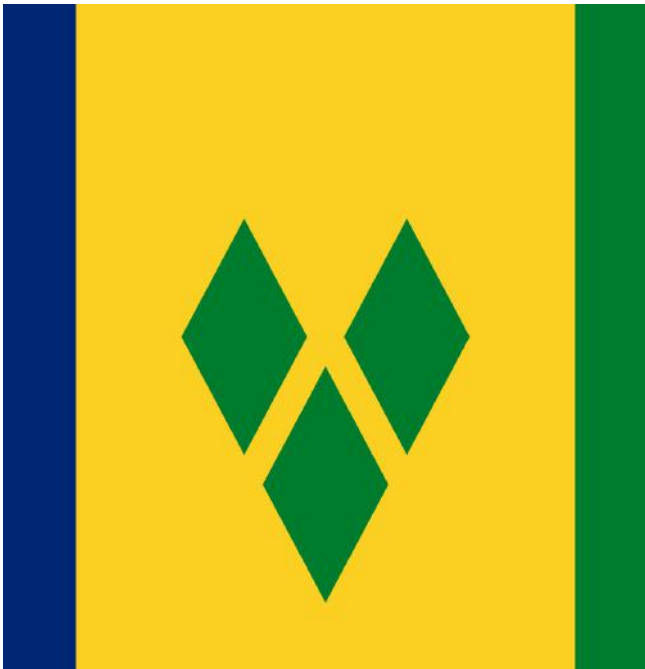
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Patients require a valid Medicinal Cannabis Identification Card to access cannabis for approved conditions such as chronic pain, cancer, epilepsy, PTSD, and more. The law prioritizes small-scale farmers in licensing and offers financial assistance and training programs to encourage local participation. Public education campaigns focus on responsible use, public health awareness, and the benefits of medicinal cannabis.

* ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC EQUITY, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

The Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Act, 2025 reflects Saint Lucia's commitment to social justice, economic equity, and cultural preservation. The Act safeguards Rastafarian sacramental use (Clause 35) and promotes social equity through licensing advantages for small-scale farmers (Clause 22). The establishment of the Central Cannabis Trading Entity (Clause 36) ensures fair market access, price regulation, and farmer protection. Decriminalization measures reduce social harm, while amnesty provisions (Clause 49) offer pardons for past minor cannabis offenses, fostering community reintegration and social justice.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Fully legalized under the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2018, allowing controlled cultivation, processing, and sale.
- Religious Use: Not explicitly recognized, but traditional small-scale growers may qualify under special licensing provisions.
- Recreational Use: Decriminalized for possession of up to 56 grams, with civil penalties replacing criminal charges.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2018 — Establishes the legal framework for medicinal cannabis cultivation, processing, distribution, and patient access.
- Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) (Amendment) Act, 2018 — Decriminalizes possession of up to 56 grams of cannabis for personal use, replacing criminal penalties with fines.
- Cannabis Cultivation Amnesty Act, 2018 — Provides a pathway for traditional cannabis cultivators to transition into the legal market.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Terral Mapp, CEO,
Medicinal Cannabis Authority
(MCA)

- Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA):
 - Oversees policy implementation, licensing, and compliance for the medicinal cannabis industry.
 - Ensures coordination between health, commerce, and agricultural sectors.
 - Implements seed-to-sale tracking to monitor cannabis from cultivation to distribution.
- Ministry of Agriculture:
 - Supervises cultivation regulations and provides support for traditional growers transitioning to the legal market.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines offers various cannabis licenses, including cultivation (small-scale to industrial), processing and manufacturing, dispensaries, research & development, export, transportation, and laboratory testing. Applicants must meet proof of local ownership, comply with environmental and security regulations, and conduct community impact assessments. Social equity provisions prioritize traditional cultivators and local entrepreneurs in licensing.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The seed-to-sale tracking system ensures full transparency and prevents diversion into the illicit market. Regular inspections and audits by the Medicinal Cannabis Authority maintain strict industry standards. Non-compliance results in fines up to \$100,000 USD, license suspension or revocation, and criminal prosecution for unauthorized activities.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$15M

Potential Market Value

\$40M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$19M

Export Potential

\$14M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$28M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Medicinal cannabis is available to registered patients with prescriptions for conditions such as chronic pain, epilepsy, cancer, and PTSD. The government prioritizes small-scale farmers in licensing and provides financial assistance and training programs for local participation. Public education campaigns raise awareness about responsible cannabis use and health benefits.

* INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

The Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2018 reflects the country's commitment to economic equity and traditional cultivator inclusion. The Cannabis Cultivation Amnesty Act (Section 12) allows legacy growers to integrate into the legal industry, recognizing cannabis as a historically significant economic driver. The Central Cannabis Trading Entity (Section 42) ensures market fairness, protecting small-scale farmers from price manipulation and corporate dominance. The decriminalization of possession (Section 14) reduces social harm, while licensing incentives encourage local participation.

JAMAICA



ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION

- Medicinal Cannabis: Fully legal under a strict licensing system, with patient access through registered medical practitioners.
- Religious Use: Recognized for Rastafarian communities, allowing them to cultivate, possess, and use cannabis for sacramental purposes.
- Recreational Use: Decriminalized for possession of up to 2 ounces (56 grams), with fines replacing criminal penalties.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015 — Decriminalizes small-scale cannabis possession and legalizes medicinal and sacramental use.
- Cannabis Licensing Authority Act — Establishes the regulatory framework for commercial cultivation, processing, retail, and research.
- Ganja Export Regulations, 2020 — Governs exportation of cannabis products for medicinal and therapeutic use under strict compliance standards.



Farrah Blake, CEO,
Cannabis Licensing Authority
(CLA)

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA):
 - Oversees licensing, regulation, and enforcement of Jamaica's cannabis industry. Ensures public health and safety compliance and operates a seed-to-sale tracking system to prevent illegal diversion.
- Ministry of Agriculture:
 - Supports agricultural development and economic growth within the cannabis sector, with a focus on export strategies and market expansion.
- Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA):
 - Monitors cultivation quality, regulatory compliance, and export standards, ensuring Jamaican cannabis meets

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Jamaica provides licenses for cultivation, processing, retail dispensaries, research & development, export, transportation, and laboratory testing. Special provisions exist for traditional farmers and small-scale cultivators, ensuring that local communities can participate in the regulated market. Applicants must meet proof of local ownership, environmental and security compliance, and community impact assessments to qualify.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Jamaica enforces strict regulatory measures to ensure consumer safety and industry transparency. The seed-to-sale tracking system monitors cannabis from cultivation to retail. Regular inspections and audits verify compliance, with penalties for violations including:

- Fines up to \$250,000 USD
- License suspension or revocation
- Criminal prosecution for unauthorized cultivation or sales

Estimated tax Revenue

\$40M

Potential Market Value

\$75M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$400M

Export Potential

\$60M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$90M

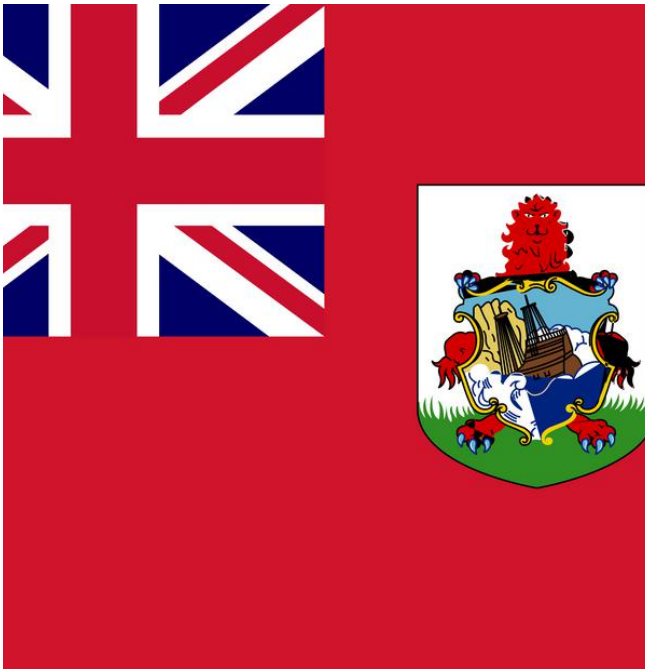
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Jamaica's cannabis regulations emphasize public health and social equity. Medicinal cannabis is available through certified practitioners for conditions such as chronic pain, epilepsy, cancer, and PTSD. The government prioritizes local farmers, offering financial support and training to help them integrate into the legal industry. Public awareness campaigns focus on responsible cannabis use, health benefits, and regulatory compliance.

* BALANCED AND INCLUSIVE CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

Jamaica's Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015 integrates social justice, economic empowerment, and cultural recognition. Section 7C decriminalizes small-scale possession, reducing unnecessary criminalization. Section 7B supports traditional cannabis farmers, while export regulations (2020) enable Jamaica to compete in the global cannabis market. The Central Cannabis Trading Entity ensures fair pricing, market access, and stability, preventing large corporations from dominating the industry.

BERMUDA



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Legalized under the Cannabis Licensing Act, 2021, with regulated patient access through licensed dispensaries.
- Recreational Use: Illegal, but decriminalized for possession of up to 7 grams, with fines replacing criminal charges.
- Religious & Personal Cultivation: Limited cultivation permitted for licensed individuals and religious use, subject to government approval.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Cannabis Licensing Act, 2021 — Establishes licensing categories and industry regulations.
- Misuse of Drugs Act Amendment — Removes cannabis from the list of controlled substances, enabling legal cultivation and sales.
- Bermuda Human Rights Act, 1981 (Section 6A) — Recognizes cannabis industry programs as a special economic opportunity initiative



Hon. Kim Wilson, JP, MP
Minister of Health

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA)
 - Oversees licensing, compliance, and enforcement for the cannabis industry.
 - Ensures legal cannabis operations align with public health and safety regulations.
 - Regulates cultivation, manufacturing, retail, import, export, and research licenses.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Bermuda's Cannabis Licensing Act, 2021 establishes a structured system covering cultivation, retail, research, and export. Cultivation licenses include Tier 1 for personal use and Tier 2 for commercial production. Retail shop licenses allow sales and on-site consumption in designated locations. Manufacturing licenses regulate cannabis extraction and product development. Import and export licenses control international trade, ensuring compliance with destination countries.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Bermuda enforces strict regulatory measures through seed-to-sale tracking and regular audits to prevent illicit market diversion. Violations lead to license suspension, revocation, or criminal prosecution. Fines and penalties vary based on non-compliance severity, ensuring market integrity.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$2.5M

Market Value

\$15M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$40M

Export Potential

\$22M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$29M

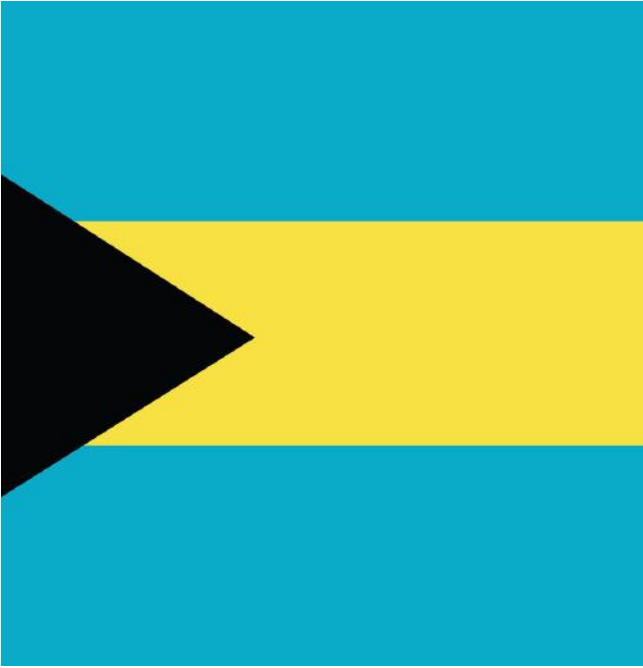
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

The framework prioritizes patient access, small-scale farmers, and public education. Registered patients can obtain cannabis for medicinal use, with licensed dispensaries ensuring regulated distribution. The government supports local entrepreneurs through training programs and financial aid to promote industry inclusion. Public education campaigns inform citizens about responsible cannabis use, health benefits, and legal rights, aiming to reduce stigma.

* SAFE AND REGULATED ACCESS TO MEDICINAL AND RELIGIOUS CANNABIS USE

The Cannabis Licensing Act, 2021 reflects Bermuda's strategic approach to cannabis regulation, balancing economic opportunity, public safety, and controlled access. Section 6 establishes a strict licensing system to ensure compliance and market stability. Section 13 decriminalizes possession of up to 7 grams, reducing unnecessary criminalization. Section 18 enables licensed personal and religious cultivation, recognizing cultural and individual freedoms within a regulated framework. Bermuda's model prioritizes financial oversight, export potential, and controlled market participation, ensuring economic benefits without market monopolization.

BAHAMAS



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- **Medicinal Cannabis:** Legalized for registered patients under a regulated licensing system.
- **Religious Use:** Permitted for Rastafarian communities, allowing cultivation, possession, and sacramental use.
- **Recreational Use:** Still prohibited, but possession of small amounts is decriminalized.

KEY LEGISLATION

- **Cannabis Bill, 2024** — Establishes the legal framework for medicinal cannabis use, cultivation, licensing, and regulation in The Bahamas.
- **Dangerous Drugs Act (Amendment), 2024** — Decriminalizes possession of small quantities of cannabis for medicinal and sacramental use.



Dr. Michael Darville
Minister of Health & Wellness

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- **Bahamas Cannabis Authority (BCA)**
 - Oversees licensing, compliance, and enforcement, ensuring a safe and regulated cannabis industry.
 - Implements a seed-to-sale tracking system to prevent illegal market diversion.
 - Coordinates with health, agriculture, and trade ministries to maintain industry standards and economic growth.
- **Ministry of Health**
 - Manages patient registration for medicinal cannabis access.
 - Establishes prescription guidelines to regulate doctor-patient cannabis treatment.
 - Monitors public health impact and ensures safe cannabis consumption standards.
- **Ministry of Agriculture**
 - Regulates cannabis cultivation to maintain agricultural best practices and environmental sustainability.
 - Provides technical support to local farmers and licensed cultivators.
 - Ensures fair market access for small-scale growers and prevents corporate monopolization.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Bahamas licenses cultivation, processing, retail, research, export, and distribution under strict regulations. Cultivation ranges from small to industrial scale, while processing oversees extraction and product development. Dispensary licenses permit retail sales to patients, research licenses drive scientific innovation, and export/import licenses enable international trade. Transportation licenses ensure secure distribution, and sacramental licenses allow Rastafarian cannabis cultivation.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

A seed-to-sale tracking system and regular audits ensure industry transparency and consumer safety in The Bahamas. Violations can result in fines up to \$100,000 USD, license suspension, or criminal prosecution. To stabilize the market, a Central Cannabis Trading Entity regulates bulk purchasing, pricing, and distribution, preventing corporate monopolization while ensuring fair compensation for small-scale farmers.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$12M

Market Value

\$80M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$60M

Export Potential

\$40M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$60M

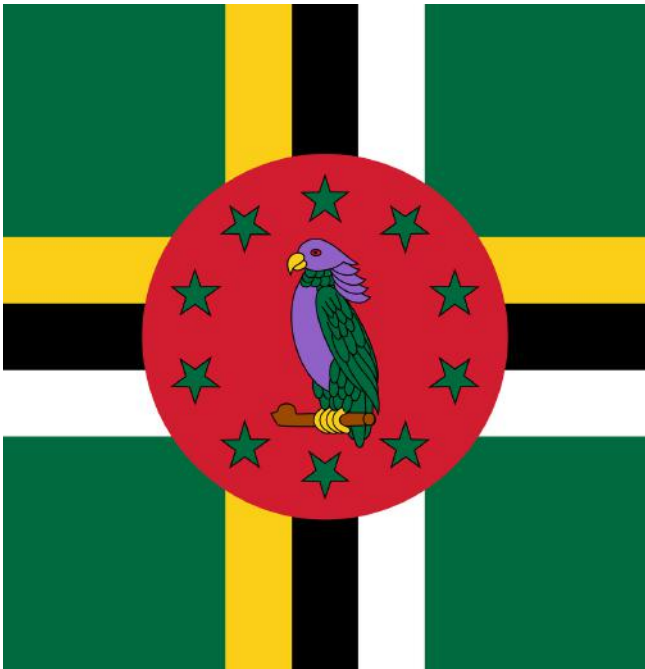
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

The Bahamas' legislative framework for cannabis emphasizes patient access, support for small-scale farmers, and public education. Registered patients can obtain medical cannabis through prescriptions from licensed medical practitioners, with dispensing managed by authorized pharmacies and dispensaries. The government supports local entrepreneurs, including small-scale farmers, by offering training programs and financial assistance to promote inclusive participation in the emerging cannabis industry.

* CULTURALLY INCLUSIVE & REGULATED CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

The Cannabis Bill, 2024 reflects The Bahamas' commitment to social equity, religious freedom, and economic opportunity. Section 12 decriminalizes small-scale cannabis possession, reducing unnecessary criminalization. Section 18 protects sacramental cannabis use for Rastafarian communities, aligning regulation with cultural traditions. The Central Cannabis Trading Entity (Section 27) prevents market monopolization, ensuring equitable access for local farmers and fair pricing in the industry.

DOMINICA



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION DRAFT](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Pending legalization under the ISC-drafted proposal.
- Religious Use: Expected to be recognized under the proposed law, allowing Rastafarian communities to cultivate and use cannabis for sacramental purposes.
- Recreational Use: Decriminalized for possession of up to 28 grams and cultivation of up to three plants per household.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Comprehensive Legalization Framework: Dominica is advancing towards full cannabis legalization under an drafted regulatory framework that covers medicinal use, sacramental rights, decriminalization, and commercial activities.
- Decriminalization: The Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) (Amendment) Act, 2020 allows possession of up to 28 grams (1 ounce) and cultivation of up to three plants per household.
- Economic & Social Inclusion: The proposed law prioritizes small-scale vendors, farmers, and local entrepreneurs, fostering cannabis tourism, medical cannabis access, and foreign investment.



Hon. Roland Royer
Minister of Agriculture

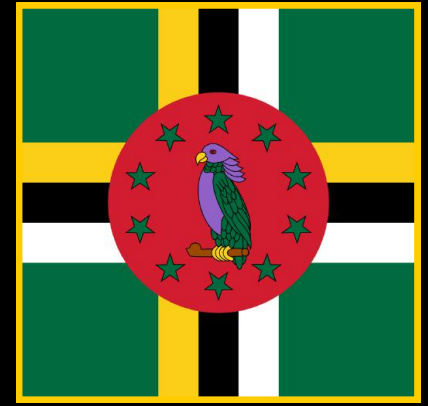
REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Under the proposed drafted framework, Dominica's cannabis industry will be regulated by:

- Dominica Cannabis Authority (DCA)
 - Oversees licensing, compliance, and enforcement of cannabis laws.
 - Implements a seed-to-sale tracking system to prevent illicit market diversion.
 - Coordinates with health, agriculture, and trade ministries for industry development.
- Ministry of Health
 - Manages patient access and medicinal cannabis prescriptions.
- Ministry of Agriculture
 - Regulates cultivation standards and environmental impact assessments.
 - Provides support for local farmers integrating into the legal market.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The proposed framework prioritizes local participation, offering licenses for cultivation, processing, retail dispensaries, research, export, and transportation. To integrate small-scale vendors into the legal economy, the draft law introduces a Micro-Vendor License, allowing street sellers and small-scale entrepreneurs to transition into the formal cannabis market.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

A seed-to-sale tracking system will maintain industry transparency and prevent illicit trade, with oversight from the DCA. Strict enforcement measures include:

- Fines up to \$50,000 USD for regulatory violations.
- License suspension or revocation for repeated non-compliance.
- Criminal prosecution for unauthorized large-scale sales or cultivation.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$9M

Potential Market Value

\$20M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$80M

Export Potential

\$25M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$30M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

The ISC-drafted framework prioritizes public health, economic empowerment, and social inclusion in Dominica's cannabis industry. Licensed dispensaries will provide medicinal cannabis for approved conditions such as chronic pain, epilepsy, and PTSD. Traditional farmers and small-scale vendors will receive licensing priority, financial support, and training to ensure equitable participation.

* SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

The Cannabis Reform Framework, led uniquely by the Ministry of Agriculture, reflects Dominica's identity as the "Nature Isle of the Caribbean." This approach ensures that legalization is rooted in the island's cultural, environmental, and economic realities. The framework prioritizes small-scale farmers and local vendors, integrating them into the legal market while promoting medicinal cannabis, sacramental use, sustainable tourism, and local entrepreneurship. By balancing economic growth, social justice, and public health, Dominica positions itself as a regional leader in equitable and environmentally conscious cannabis policy.

GRENADA



PENDING GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR DRAFT RELEASE

- Medicinal Cannabis: The government is drafting a legal framework to regulate prescription-based access and medical cannabis research.
- Religious Use: The proposed law is expected to allow Rastafarians to cultivate and use cannabis as a sacrament in places of worship.
- Recreational Use: GRENADA has said it will decriminalise marijuana for religious and recreational use. Agriculture Minister Lennox Andrews said the changes will take place before the end of the second half of 2025

KEY LEGISLATION

- The Government of Grenada plans to present legislation to Parliament by June 2025 to decriminalize cannabis use for religious and recreational purposes. This initiative builds upon a 2021 bill that lapsed due to the dissolution of Parliament before the June 2022 general elections



Hon. Lennox Andrews
Minister of Agriculture

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Cannabis Secretariat and Grenada Cannabis Working Committee are currently developing the national cannabis policy. No independent regulatory body has been formally announced yet.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The draft legislation establishes a tiered licensing system that prioritizes local businesses while ensuring controlled industry growth. Small-scale and cooperative cultivation licenses will give traditional farmers priority access, supporting local agricultural communities. Medicinal processing and distribution will be strictly regulated to maintain pharmaceutical-grade standards.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Grenada's framework prioritizes public safety and social responsibility, with measures including:

- A seed-to-sale tracking system to prevent illegal diversion.
- Strict advertising regulations to align with community values and prevent youth exposure.
- Progressive penalties for non-compliance, ensuring education and rehabilitation before punitive actions.

Estimated tax Revenue	\$12.5M
Potential Market Value	\$15M
Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue	\$20M
Export Potential	\$20M
Estimated Foreign Investments	\$8M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

The draft framework ensures patient access through licensed dispensaries and registered medical practitioners while fostering economic development by prioritizing local entrepreneurs over foreign corporations. A structured commercial market will generate tax revenue, create jobs, and integrate legacy vendors into the legal system, preventing economic exclusion. The Rastafarian community receives formal recognition, securing religious and cultural rights to cannabis use.

* OUTLOOK

The ISC-drafted cannabis framework for Grenada reflects the island's unique cultural and economic identity, ensuring that religious beliefs, public health concerns, and economic opportunities are all balanced within the legal structure. While full adult-use legalization is unlikely in the near term, the transition from decriminalization to a structured industry will allow Grenada to integrate cannabis tourism, medicinal research, and regulated trade into its broader economic development strategy.

This framework avoids direct confrontation with religious groups while providing a clear economic and social pathway forward. It respects traditional values but still creates a regulated market that benefits Grenadians first. By positioning the industry around health, wellness, and economic empowerment, it aligns with Grenada's agricultural heritage, strong tourism brand, and cautious approach to policy reform.

CAYMAN ISLAND



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Fully legalized under a prescription-based system, allowing controlled cultivation, processing, and distribution.
- Religious Use: Expected to be formally recognized, permitting regulated cultivation and use by Rastafarian communities.
- Recreational Use: The Misuse of Drugs Act still classifies cannabis as a controlled substance, meaning personal possession remains illegal.

KEY LEGISLATION

- The Referendum, Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling, and Cannabis Act, 2025 introduces comprehensive cannabis regulations, enabling a legal framework for medicinal, sacramental, and limited commercial use.
- The Misuse of Drugs Act (2017 Revision) provides the basis for drug control, while amendments decriminalize personal cannabis possession within defined limits.



Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly
Premier and Minister for Finance &
Economic Development, Education,
District Administration & Lands, Financial
Services & Commerce, Health, and
Cabinet Office

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Cayman Islands does not have a specific cannabis licensing authority. Regulation and oversight of medical cannabis fall under existing health regulatory agencies as per the Misuse of Drugs Law (2017 Revision).

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Cayman Islands currently do not offer domestic cultivation or processing licenses. Medical cannabis is solely available through importation and regulated pharmacies. Future legislative reforms may introduce licensing options for production, research, and limited domestic supply.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Compliance and enforcement in the Cayman Islands currently treat possession of cannabis without a prescription as illegal, subject to criminal penalties, including imprisonment. However, a significant shift may be on the horizon with an upcoming referendum scheduled for April 30, 2025.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$5M

Potential Market Value

\$10M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$18M

Export Potential

\$10M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$9M

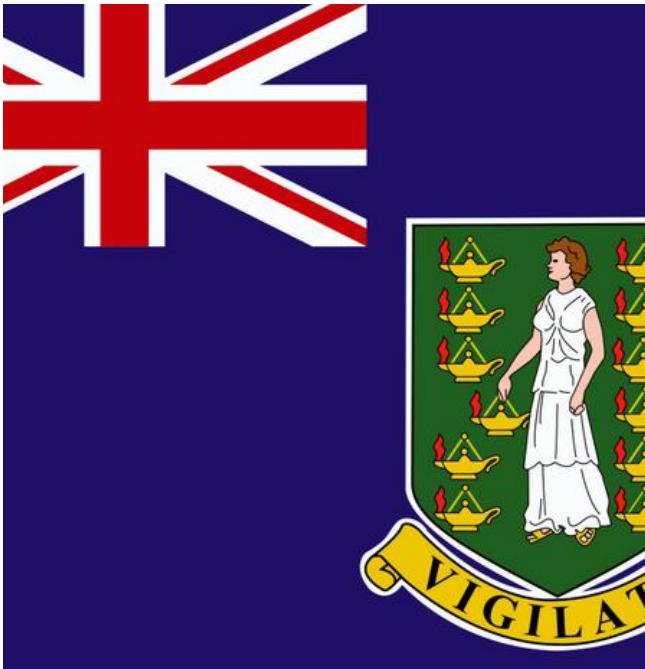
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Medical cannabis is available for registered patients suffering from chronic pain, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and other qualifying conditions. However, access remains limited due to high costs and reliance on imported products. Future policy discussions may address local production and expanded accessibility.

* FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The Cayman Islands may see a national referendum on decriminalizing small amounts of cannabis added to the 2025 General Election ballots, reflecting ongoing discussions about reducing penalties for possession. Additionally, as neighboring Caribbean countries continue to develop their cannabis industries, the Cayman Islands could face increasing pressure to reconsider its stance on recreational cannabis use, potentially aligning with regional trends toward more progressive drug policies.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLAND



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Fully legalized under the Cannabis Licensing Act, 2020, allowing controlled cultivation, processing, and sale for medicinal purposes.
- Religious Use: Permitted under specific licensing provisions, particularly for Rastafarian communities.
- Recreational Use: Not legalized. Strict penalties remain in place for unauthorized possession and distribution.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Cannabis Licensing Act, 2020 — Establishes the Virgin Islands Cannabis Licensing Authority, regulating the analysis, cultivation, processing, importation, exportation, distribution, and sale of medicinal cannabis.
- Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act — Governs drug control and classification, including cannabis-related offenses and penalties.



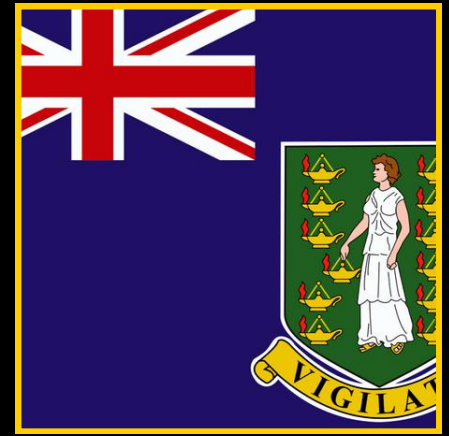
Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley
Minister For Health And Social Development

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Virgin Islands Cannabis Licensing Authority (VICLA): Oversees industry regulation, licensing, and compliance.
- Ministry of Health: Manages medical cannabis prescriptions and patient access.
- Ministry of Agriculture: Regulates cultivation and supports agricultural development for cannabis-related businesses.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Virgin Islands' licensing system supports various levels of industry participation. Cultivation licenses are available for small-scale, medium, and industrial growers, ensuring an inclusive market. Processing and manufacturing licenses regulate the production of cannabis-based medicines and extracts, while dispensary and retail licenses allow for controlled medicinal cannabis distribution.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Compliance mechanisms are structured around a seed-to-sale tracking system, ensuring full transparency from cultivation to distribution and preventing illicit diversion. The Cannabis Licensing Authority oversees industry regulations through inspections and audits, enforcing strict compliance with legal standards. Violations such as unauthorized distribution or regulatory breaches can result in fines of up to \$200,000 USD and the revocation of operating licenses.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$3M

Potential Market Value

\$15M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$6M

Export Potential

\$8M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$8M

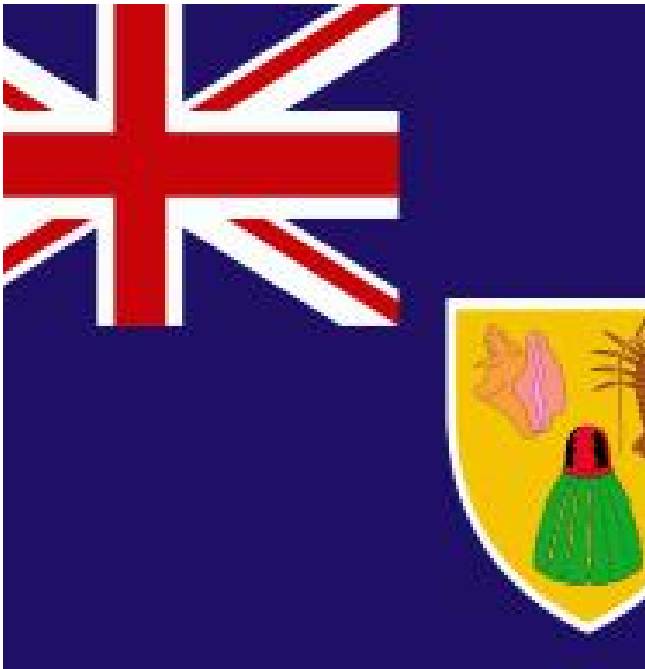
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

The Virgin Islands' cannabis framework ensures patient access and social equity by integrating local farmers and small-scale producers into the legal industry. Medical cannabis is available to patients with prescriptions for conditions such as chronic pain, epilepsy, cancer, and PTSD. The government prioritizes traditional cultivators, granting them legal market access to support economic sustainability.

* A STRUCTURED AND EQUITABLE FRAMEWORK

The Virgin Islands is positioning itself as a key player in the Caribbean medicinal cannabis sector. By balancing economic growth, social equity, and strict regulation, the territory aims to attract investors while ensuring local communities benefit from the industry. The Cannabis Licensing Act, 2020 establishes a structured, legally sound market with clear pathways for traditional cultivators, researchers, and medical professionals.

TURK AND CAICOS ISLAND



PENDING GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR DRAFT RELEASE

- Medicinal Cannabis: There are no provisions under current laws permitting the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes.
- Religious Use: No allowances are made for the religious use of cannabis.
- Recreational Use: The recreational use of cannabis is strictly prohibited.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Control of Drugs Ordinance 1976: Classifies cannabis as a Class B drug, rendering its possession, sale, and cultivation illegal.



Hon. Shaun David Malcolm
Minister of Health & Human
Services

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Law Enforcement Agencies:
Responsible for enforcing the
prohibition of cannabis-related
activities.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

There is no legal framework for cannabis cultivation, processing, manufacturing, or retail. Cultivation licenses are not available, and the operation of dispensaries or retail outlets remains prohibited. Additionally, research and development involving cannabis are not permitted under current laws.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Turks and Caicos maintains stringent cannabis laws, with no legal framework for medical or recreational use. Possession, cultivation, or distribution of cannabis is strictly prohibited. Violations can result in severe penalties, including substantial fines and imprisonment.

Unlike jurisdictions like Bermuda, which have implemented regulated cannabis programs with measures such as seed-to-sale tracking and regular audits, Turks and Caicos has not established any legal cannabis industry.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$0M

Potential Market Value

\$8M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$6M

Export Potential

\$2M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$0M

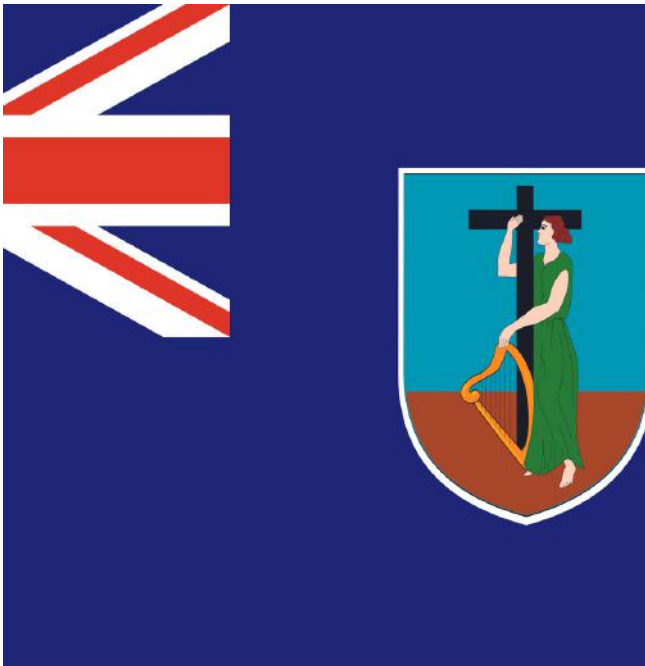
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, medical cannabis remains entirely illegal, with no legal framework allowing patient access. There are no provisions to support traditional or small-scale cultivators, as cannabis cultivation is strictly prohibited. Public awareness campaigns focus on reinforcing the illegal status of cannabis and educating the public on the health risks associated with its use.

* FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Given the stringent prohibition of cannabis in the Turks and Caicos Islands, there is currently no legal industry or economic activity related to cannabis. The government maintains a firm stance against legalization, focusing on enforcement and public education to prevent cannabis use and distribution.

MONTSERRAT



PENDING GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR DRAFT RELEASE

- Medicinal Cannabis: Currently, Montserrat does not have provisions allowing the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes.
- Religious Use: There are no legal allowances for the religious use of cannabis.
- Recreational Use: The recreational use of cannabis remains illegal under existing laws.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act: This principal legislation governs the control and prohibition of narcotic substances, including cannabis, in Montserrat.
- Drug Trafficking Offences Act: Addresses offenses related to the trafficking of controlled substances.



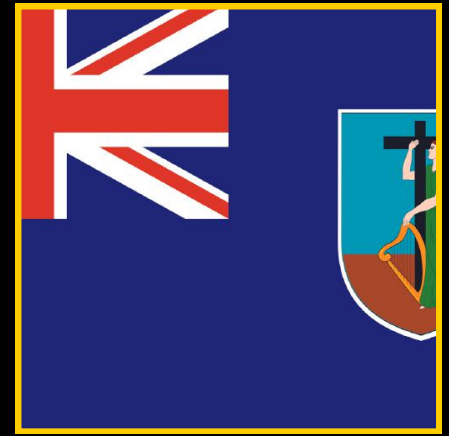
Hon. John Osborne
Minister of Agriculture, Lands,
Housing, Environment & Sports

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Law Enforcement Agencies: Responsible for enforcing the prohibition of cannabis-related activities in accordance with the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

In Montserrat, cannabis cultivation remains illegal, with no licensing framework for growers. There are no legal provisions for processing or manufacturing cannabis products, and dispensaries or retail outlets are strictly prohibited. Additionally, research and development involving cannabis are not permitted under the current legal framework, maintaining the territory's strict prohibition on all cannabis-related activities.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

In Montserrat, law enforcement agencies actively monitor and prosecute illegal cannabis activities, ensuring strict adherence to prohibition laws. Convictions for cannabis possession can result in imprisonment and substantial fines, with severe legal consequences for non-compliance, including incarceration and significant financial penalties.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$0M

Potential Market Value

\$12M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$6M

Export Potential

\$5M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$0M

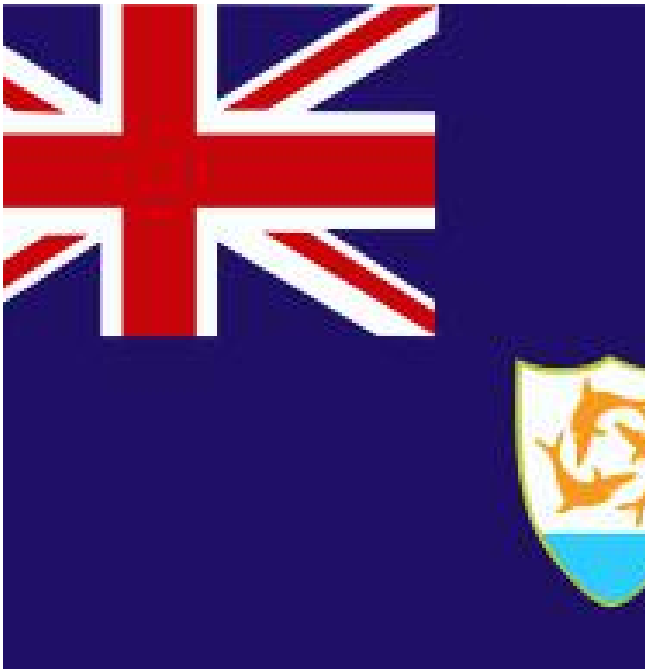
* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

In Montserrat, patients do not have legal access to cannabis for medical treatments, as there are no provisions supporting its medicinal use. Traditional or small-scale cultivators are not legally recognized, and no framework exists to integrate them into a regulated market. Government campaigns focus on deterring cannabis use, emphasizing its illegal status.

* FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Although cannabis remains strictly prohibited in Montserrat, the territory could harness its potential as a significant driver of economic development, especially given its limited population. Currently, the government focuses on enforcement and public education to prevent cannabis use and distribution. However, a regulated cannabis industry could offer a transformative opportunity for economic diversification and growth in Montserrat.

ANGUILLA



PENDING GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR DRAFT RELEASE

- **Medicinal Cannabis:** Currently illegal; medical access is only available on a case-by-case basis through special importation approval from the Chief Medical Officer.
- **Religious Use:** Not explicitly legalized, but under review for potential exemptions for Rastafarian sacramental use in future legislative reforms.
- **Recreational Use:** Decriminalized; adults aged 18 and over can possess up to 10 grams and cultivate up to four plants per household for personal use, but commercial sale and public consumption remain prohibited.

KEY LEGISLATION

- **Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act:** This principal legislation governs the control and prohibition of narcotic substances, including cannabis, in Anguilla.
- **Decriminalization Policy (2024):** As of December 1, 2024, Anguilla implemented a policy decriminalizing the possession of up to 10 grams of cannabis for personal use and allowing the cultivation of up to four cannabis plants per household. This policy is part of a one-year pilot project aimed at assessing the impact of decriminalization.
- **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Proposed):** The government plans to introduce legislation to expunge non-violent cannabis possession records, aiming to alleviate the long-term consequences of prior convictions.
- **Controlled Substances Importation Framework (Proposed):** In the second phase of reform, authorities may consider the decriminalization of cannabis imports and the regulated sale of cannabis oils, medicinal products, and by-products.



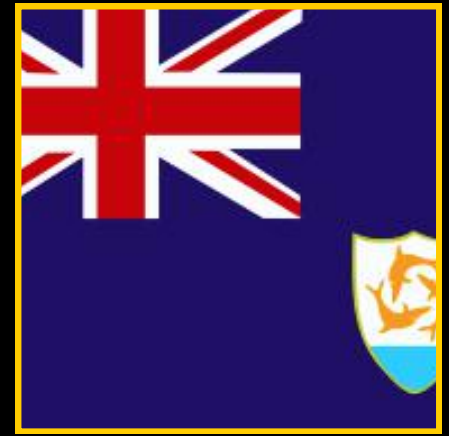
Hon. Kenneth M. Hodge
Minister of Home Affairs

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- **Ministry of Home Affairs:** Oversees the development of cannabis-related policies and ensures compliance with law enforcement.
- **Drugs Advisory Council:** Provides recommendations to the government on cannabis regulations and public health strategies.
- **Royal Anguilla Police Force:** Responsible for enforcing legal provisions, including monitoring cannabis sales and trafficking.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Currently, no formal cannabis industry licensing system exists. The government is conducting a one-year decriminalization initiative to assess the social and economic impact of limited personal cannabis use. Any future licensing for cultivation, distribution, or medicinal use will depend on the results of this pilot program.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement no longer arrests adults found in possession of up to 10 grams of cannabis in private spaces. However, commercial sale and trafficking of cannabis remain illegal, and authorities actively prosecute unregulated distribution. Possession of cannabis by minors remains punishable under the Child Justice Act, directing offenders to rehabilitation and counseling programs rather than criminal courts.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$5M

Potential Market Value

\$15M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$4M

Export Potential

\$5M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$0M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Cannabis remains unavailable for medical use, though individuals can apply to import cannabis-based treatments on a case-by-case basis through the Chief Medical Officer. The decriminalization policy includes a research initiative to assess cannabis usage trends, public health risks, and potential economic benefits. The government promotes responsible cannabis use awareness and aims to develop intervention programs for substance abuse prevention.

* FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Anguilla's cautious decriminalization approach seeks to balance public health, social equity, and economic opportunities. The government's phased cannabis reform strategy emphasizes youth protection, crime reduction, and data-driven policymaking while keeping commercial cannabis expansion under review.

GUYANA



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION DRAFT](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Not permitted under current legislation.
- Religious Use: No exemptions for religious or cultural use.
- Recreational Use: Decriminalized up to 30 grams; no prison time, but fines may apply.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, Chapter 10:10 — Governs all aspects of narcotic drugs, including cannabis, prohibiting possession, trafficking, and cultivation.
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Control (Amendment) Bill, 2021 — Reduces penalties for possession of small amounts of cannabis; individuals found with up to 30 grams no longer face imprisonment



Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn
Ministry of Home Affairs

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Ministry of Home Affairs: Oversees the enforcement of drug policies and regulations.
- Guyana Police Force: Responsible for monitoring, enforcement, and prosecution of drug-related offenses.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Currently, Guyana has no licensing framework for legal cannabis cultivation, production, or retail sales. The government has not announced any plans to introduce a regulated market.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Cannabis remains largely prohibited in Guyana, with only limited decriminalization for personal possession. Possession of up to 30 grams does not lead to imprisonment but may result in fines, while trafficking and cultivation remain serious criminal offenses with harsh penalties. The government enforces strict regulations, and no public awareness campaigns promote harm reduction, as policies focus primarily on deterrence.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$5M

Potential Market Value

\$15M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$4M

Export Potential

\$5M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$0M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

- **Medical Cannabis Access:** There are no provisions for medical cannabis use or prescriptions.
- **Traditional Cultivator Inclusion:** No policies currently support small-scale or traditional cannabis cultivators.
- **Public Awareness:** The government emphasizes the risks of cannabis use, with no initiatives for harm reduction.

* A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO REFORM

Anguilla's cautious decriminalization approach seeks to balance public health, social equity, and economic opportunities. The government's phased cannabis reform strategy emphasizes youth protection, crime reduction, and data-driven policymaking while keeping commercial cannabis expansion under review.

HAITI



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION DRAFT](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Illegal. All forms of medicinal marijuana products are prohibited in Haiti.
- Recreational Cannabis: Illegal. The cultivation, sale, and possession of cannabis for recreational purposes are prohibited.
- Industrial Hemp: Illegal. Haiti does not permit the cultivation of industrial hemp

KEY LEGISLATION

- Haiti's drug laws classify cannabis as a Schedule I substance, indicating a high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use.



Hon Alix Didier Fils-Aimé
Prime Minister

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The enforcement of drug laws in Haiti falls under the jurisdiction of national law enforcement agencies.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

Currently, there is no licensing framework for cannabis-related activities in Haiti due to its illegal status.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Penalties: Possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis can lead to severe legal consequences, including fines and imprisonment.
- Enforcement: While cannabis remains illegal, enforcement appears inconsistent. Reports suggest that authorities do not strictly enforce regulations against its use in public places.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$0M

Potential Market Value

\$15M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$20M

Export Potential

\$20M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$0M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

- Public Awareness: There is limited information on public health campaigns or educational programs related to cannabis use.
- Social Equity Measures: No specific initiatives have been identified to address the impact of cannabis prohibition on marginalized communities

* ESTIMATES AND MARKET POTENTIAL

While specific data for Haiti is limited, following political stabilization, Haiti's rich history and strategic location offer enormous tourism potential. With its favorable climate and unique cultural heritage, the country could leverage a regulated cannabis industry to further boost its tourism sector and stimulate economic growth.

SURINAME



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- Medicinal Cannabis: Illegal. All forms of medicinal marijuana products are prohibited in Suriname.
- Recreational Cannabis: Illegal. The cultivation, sale, and possession of cannabis for recreational purposes are prohibited.
- Draft Industrial Hemp: Legal under the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act. This law permits the production and export of industrial hemp, primarily for manufacturing CBD products.

KEY LEGISLATION

- Draft Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act: Establishes regulations for the cultivation and export of industrial hemp for commercial purposes.



Hon. Prahlad Sewdien
Minister of Health & Wellness

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries: Oversees the implementation and enforcement of the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act provides a structured licensing system for:

- Cultivation Licenses: For the production of industrial hemp by authorized farmers.
- Export Licenses: For companies involved in the export of hemp-derived products.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Despite the illegality of cannabis, enforcement appears inconsistent:
- Public Use: While cannabis remains illegal, authorities reportedly do not strictly enforce regulations against its use in public places.
- Penalties: Possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis can lead to severe legal consequences, including fines and imprisonment.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$5M

Potential Market Value

\$60M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$10M

Export Potential

\$40M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$5M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

- Public Awareness: There is limited information on public health campaigns or educational programs related to cannabis use.
- Social Equity Measures: No specific initiatives have been identified to address the impact of cannabis prohibition on marginalized communities.

* HEMP-ECONOMICS-DRIVEN CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

Suriname's approach to cannabis regulation is currently characterized by strict prohibitions on both medicinal and recreational use, while permitting the cultivation of industrial hemp under specific conditions. The government has established a working group tasked with developing a comprehensive institutional, legal, and regulatory framework for industrial hemp cultivation. This initiative aims to ensure that the country's policies align with international standards and effectively protect public health.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



[ACCESS FULL LEGISLATION](#)

- **Medicinal Cannabis:** The Cannabis Control Act, 2022 was assented to on June 17, 2022, aiming to regulate the handling of cannabis for medicinal, therapeutic, and scientific purposes. However, as of September 2024, this Act has not been proclaimed by the President, and therefore, its provisions are not yet in effect.
- **Religious Use:** The Cannabis Control Act, 2022 includes provisions for the use of cannabis by recognized religious organizations, such as the Rastafarian community.
- **Recreational Use:** The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019 decriminalized the possession of up to 30 grams of cannabis and the cultivation of up to four plants per adult. Possession of amounts between 30 to 60 grams may result in fines, while possession exceeding 100 grams remains a criminal offense.

KEY LEGISLATION

- **Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019:** This Act decriminalized the possession of up to 30 grams of cannabis and allowed the cultivation of up to four plants per adult. It also established a tiered penalty system for possession exceeding these limits.
- **Cannabis Control Act, 2022:** Intended to establish the Trinidad and Tobago Cannabis Licensing Authority to oversee the regulation of cannabis for medicinal, therapeutic, and religious purposes. As of September 2024, this Act awaits proclamation to become effective.



Senator The Honourable Reginald
Armour S.C.
Attorney General and Minister of Legal
Affairs

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Trinidad and Tobago Cannabis Licensing Authority: Envisioned under the Cannabis Control Act, 2022 to regulate licensing for cultivation, processing, distribution, sale, import, export, and research related to cannabis. The Authority's functions are pending the Act's proclamation.

* LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Cannabis Control Act, 2022 outlines a structured licensing framework to regulate the cannabis industry, including cultivation licenses for small, medium, and large-scale growers, processing and manufacturing licenses for extraction and product development, dispensary licenses for the retail distribution of medicinal cannabis products, and research licenses for scientific and medical studies.



* COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Under the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2019, compliance measures include:
- Possession Limits: Individuals may possess up to 30 grams of cannabis without penalty. Possession between 30 to 60 grams may result in fines, and possession over 100 grams can lead to imprisonment.
- Cultivation Limits: Adults are permitted to cultivate up to four cannabis plants. Exceeding this limit is subject to legal penalties.

Estimated tax Revenue

\$5M

Potential Market Value

\$60M

Potential Cannabis Tourism Revenue

\$10M

Export Potential

\$40M

Estimated Foreign Investments

\$5M

* PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

Concerns have been raised about the potential mental health impacts of cannabis use among young people. University scholars have highlighted risks such as an increased likelihood of developing schizophrenia among young men aged 16 to 20. There have been reports of cannabis-infused products, such as edibles, being consumed by students, leading to health incidents.

* SOCIAL & FINANCIALLY-DRIVEN CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

The Cannabis Control Act, 2022 of Trinidad and Tobago establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for the cannabis industry, emphasizing social equity and economic development. This framework includes licensing for cultivation, processing, distribution, retail sales, import/export, and research for medicinal, therapeutic, religious, and scientific purposes.

ISC Private Cocktail



27/03/2025
FROM 5PM
Dominica

Open to invited guests and ISC members
Engage with leading regulators
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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF REGIONAL CANNABIS FRAMEWORKS



OVERVIEW OF CARIBBEAN CANNABIS LAWS



\$134.4 B

The global legal cannabis market is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25.5%, reaching an estimated USD 134.4 billion by 2030

Caribbean nations have begun to reform their cannabis laws, albeit in varying ways and at different paces. As of recent years, no CARICOM country has fully legalized cannabis for adult use, but several have decriminalized small amounts or legalized medicinal and religious uses. For example, Jamaica's 2015 amendments decriminalized possession (up to 2 ounces), allowed cultivation of up to five plants per household, and authorized cannabis use for Rastafarian religious rites and medicinal purposes.

Likewise, countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have passed legislation establishing medical cannabis programs or decriminalizing personal possession.

These reforms mark a regional shift from absolute prohibition toward regulated frameworks, though the specifics of the laws differ by country.

KEY SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

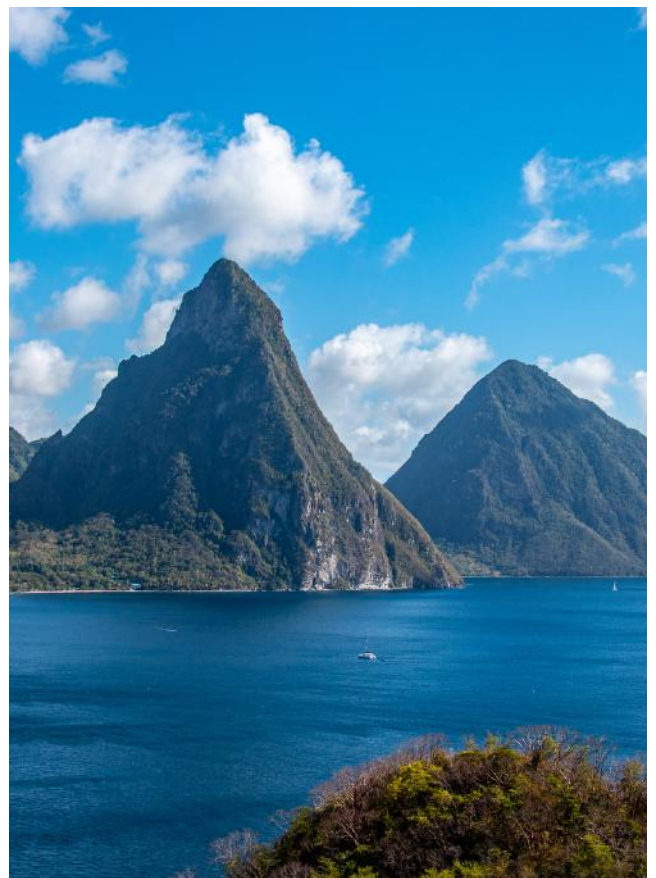
ACCESS FULL DATA



Across the Caribbean, a common trend is the recognition of cannabis' medicinal value and the move to treat small-scale possession as a public health or ticketable offense rather than a serious crime. Many countries now emphasize medical cannabis frameworks and have set personal possession limits (e.g. 14 grams in Barbados, 30 grams in Trinidad and Tobago) under which penalties are reduced or eliminated. Most have also imposed strict age limits and restrictions on public use, aligning on the need to protect youth and public health

A key similarity is the establishment of regulatory authorities or licensing commissions (for instance, Jamaica's Cannabis Licensing Authority and Saint Vincent's Medicinal Cannabis Authority) to oversee the industry's development.

However, there are notable differences in approach. Some jurisdictions explicitly allow religious or sacramental use (Jamaica and Barbados recognize Rastafarian sacramental rights), while others do not. Home cultivation allowances vary - Jamaica permits up to five plants per household, whereas other islands limit cultivation to licensed producers only. The scale of reform also differs: Jamaica and Saint Vincent have relatively comprehensive programs integrating traditional growers into the legal industry, whereas others (like Saint Lucia or Grenada) have been slower, initially focusing only on decriminalization of use.



Furthermore, the level of foreign investment and local ownership rules can differ - for example, some islands mandate a percentage of local ownership in cannabis enterprises to ensure domestic stakeholders benefit. Despite these differences, a unifying challenge is that all countries must operate within international treaty constraints that still classify cannabis as illicit, which limits their ability to fully legalize or to trade freely across borders.

BEST PRACTICES FROM LEADING MARKETS



Another best practice is public health-focused regulation: the Commission and several governments urge a shift from punitive prohibition to a framework emphasizing health, education, and human rights.

This means investing in public education on responsible use, enforcing quality standards for cannabis products, and treating addiction issues as health matters.

Leading Caribbean jurisdictions have also implemented robust compliance systems as a best practice. For instance, Barbados and St. Vincent require extensive lab testing, quality control, and tracking of medicinal cannabis to meet international standards. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' approach of creating a dedicated state agency (the Medicinal Cannabis Authority) in 2018 to oversee licensing and compliance helped it achieve a milestone first export of medical cannabis to an international market (Germany) in 2022.

Several Caribbean markets provide best-practice models that others in the region can emulate. Jamaica's cannabis framework illustrates the importance of inclusivity – legislative reforms were designed with deliberate steps to involve traditional “grassroots” ganja farmers in the emerging legal industry

This includes an Alternative Development Programme to transition illicit cultivators into licensed cultivation, ensuring small farmers can participate rather than be sidelined by large corporations. The CARICOM Regional Commission on Marijuana has explicitly recommended that any new industry integrate small farmers and limit domination by major foreign firms, underscoring that inclusivity is vital for social equity.

This demonstrates the value of rigorous standards and government support in building a globally competitive industry. Additionally, diversification and innovation are encouraged – Jamaica and St. Vincent are not only cultivating raw cannabis but also developing value-added products (oils, tinctures, wellness products) and exploring niche markets like cannabis tourism and traditional herbal remedies. By observing these pioneers, other Caribbean states can adopt best practices such as community engagement, strong regulatory oversight, and innovation-friendly policies to ensure the cannabis industry develops sustainably.



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HARMONIZATION

The patchwork of cannabis laws in the region presents both challenges and opportunities for harmonization. A major challenge is the lack of a unified regulatory framework – each country currently “reinvents the wheel” with its own rules, which can lead to duplication of efforts and competitive fragmentation.

Smaller islands fear losing a competitive edge or sovereignty if they conform to regional standards, and political will can be uneven. Moreover, differences in law (for example, what constitutes a legal quantity or who can get a license) complicate collaboration and could encourage illicit cross-border movement if one country’s laws are more lenient than its neighbor’s. International treaties (the UN Single Convention) also pose a challenge: cannabis remains a controlled substance globally, so any regional trade or harmonization must navigate these legal barriers carefully. Despite challenges, harmonizing Caribbean cannabis policy is essential. A unified approach would consolidate small markets into a larger, more attractive region for investors and facilitate trade for medical and religious use.

Leveraging the region’s favorable climate, rich cannabis tradition, and unique strains under a “Caribbean cannabis” brand would boost quality and authenticity. Standardized regulations would enhance public health through consistent product safety, lab testing, and youth prevention, while paving the way for regional centers of excellence. A collective treaty modification could also allow legal intra-regional trade, setting the stage for future exports. Ultimately, the rewards—a stronger industry, improved health outcomes, and economic growth—make harmonization a crucial goal for Caribbean policymakers.



REGIONAL HARMONIZATION THE IMPERATIVE OF A UNIFIED CANNABIS POLICY



THE NEED FOR A UNIFIED CARIBBEAN CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

Given the common heritage and shared public health goals of Caribbean states, a unified cannabis policy framework is increasingly seen as essential. The CARICOM Regional Commission on Marijuana concluded in 2018 that the existing prohibitionist regimes were “not fit for purpose” and recommended fundamental changes. Implementing those changes in a coordinated way across the region would amplify their impact. Currently, each Caribbean nation is crafting its own cannabis laws – but this siloed approach risks inefficiencies and inconsistencies. For example, one country’s strict regulations could be undermined by a neighboring island’s more permissive stance, and without coordination, legal producers cannot ship medical cannabis oil or products to patients in nearby islands who might benefit. A unified framework would ensure consistency – in licensing standards, product quality, enforcement, and consumer protections – so that cannabis policy is not left to a patchwork of differing rules.



REGIONAL LEADERS AND STAKEHOLDERS HAVE VOICED THAT UNITY IS CRUCIAL: AT A 2021 CARIBBEAN POLICY DIALOGUE, PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT CLOSER COORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENTS IS “FUNDAMENTAL TO AVOID FUTURE SCENARIOS IN WHICH CANADIAN OR US-GROWN CANNABIS FLOODS THE REGION”

Without a common strategy, the Caribbean could miss out on its own market – either remaining fragmented or being outcompeted by external producers. The imperative for a unified policy also stems from shared values. A collective approach can be rooted in the Caribbean’s commitment to public health, human rights, and social justice, ensuring that cannabis reforms benefit the people of the region broadly (for instance, by reducing arrests and providing medical access) rather than just serving commercial interests. Ultimately, the need for unity comes down to speaking with one voice on the international stage and maximizing the regional benefits of cannabis liberalization while minimizing potential harms through a coherent, well-regulated system.

BENEFITS OF HARMONIZATION (TRADE, PUBLIC HEALTH, INVESTMENT)



Aligning cannabis policies across Caribbean nations would yield multiple significant benefits:

Boosted Intra-Regional Trade: Harmonization opens the door for lawful trade of cannabis products between Caribbean countries. With a unified framework, states could pursue agreements (such as the proposed inter se treaty modification) to legally exchange medical cannabis and related products. This would create a larger regional market, enabling countries with surplus production to supply those with greater demand or less cultivation capacity. It also reduces duplication – rather than each island building every aspect of the industry, specialization could occur (one country might focus on cultivation, another on processing or R&D) with products moving freely in the bloc. In time, a harmonized region could collectively explore export opportunities to international markets once legal pathways are clear.

Improved Public Health and Safety: A unified policy would allow Caribbean states to adopt common public health standards for cannabis. This includes consistent regulations on product testing, labelling, THC potency limits, and child-resistant packaging to ensure consumer safety everywhere. Countries can share resources for public education campaigns about responsible use, drawing on best practices to inform citizens about risks such as youth use or impaired driving. Moreover, harmonization can facilitate the tracking of cannabis flows and easier cross-border cooperation in preventing illicit diversion. Overall, a regional approach grounded in public health can help manage the transition away from prohibition with robust safeguards and knowledge-sharing (for example, a joint surveillance system for adverse health effects or substance abuse trends).



Increased Investment and Economic Growth: From an investor's perspective, a harmonized Caribbean cannabis market is far more attractive than a collection of small, disparate markets. Common standards and regulations reduce the complexity and uncertainty that businesses face when operating in multiple jurisdictions. Investors would be able to scale operations across borders more easily, leveraging the region's combined population and its brand appeal (sun-grown, organic, tropical cannabis could be a selling point). Additionally, governments could coordinate regulatory incentives – such as streamlined licensing or tax advantages – to draw foreign direct investment into the region as a whole. A unified market might entice larger pharmaceutical and nutraceutical companies to invest in Caribbean cannabis research or production facilities, knowing that their products could be distributed region-wide.

In turn, this investment boosts job creation and economic growth in agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism. The success of Saint Vincent's first medical cannabis export to Europe is a harbinger of what a well-integrated regional industry could achieve on a bigger scale, with Caribbean nations collectively branding themselves as leaders in high-quality cannabis and wellness products.

POLICY ALIGNMENT STRATEGIES



Achieving harmonization requires deliberate strategies to align policies while respecting each nation's sovereignty. One key strategy is the development of model legislation or regulations at the CARICOM level. Policymakers could convene a regional task force to draft model cannabis policy provisions – covering licensing categories, quality control, offense penalties, etc. – that member states can adopt or adapt. This ensures a baseline of consistency. Another strategy is establishing a regional cannabis coordination body (perhaps under the CARICOM Secretariat or the OECS for interested Eastern Caribbean states) that meets regularly. Such a body would facilitate continuous alignment, allowing countries to share updates, resolve regulatory differences, and agree on standards (for example, a common THC limit for edibles or standard training requirements for cannabis inspectors).

Caribbean governments can also pursue mutual recognition agreements: for instance, if one country's regulator certifies a cannabis product or grant a license, other countries agree to recognize that certification, expediting cross-border business and research collaboration. Aligning on policy also means synchronizing the objectives – all countries should embrace the dual goals of public health protection and economic empowerment. Strategies like collectively setting an appropriate tax range (to avoid huge price disparities that encourage black markets) and agreeing on enforcement priorities (focusing on serious crime rather than minor possession) will help maintain a unified front. Importantly, alignment should extend to addressing social equity; Caribbean states can agree to principles such as expunging past minor cannabis convictions and reserving opportunities for small farmers, so that these become regional standards, not just national options. Through regular ministerial meetings, technical workshops, and perhaps a Caribbean Cannabis Charter, the region can strategically synchronize its policy development.

STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1 HIGH-LEVEL ENDORSEMENT

Begin with a political commitment at the highest level. CARICOM Heads of Government should officially endorse the goal of a unified cannabis policy framework. A resolution or declaration can set the vision and empower a commission or secretariat to spearhead the effort.

3 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Conduct broad consultations across the Caribbean to inform the unified policy. This includes engaging with farming communities, traditional herbalists, the Rastafarian community, medical professionals, law enforcement, and investors. Inclusivity in input will ensure the final framework addresses cultural and social nuances (for example, accommodating sacramental use uniformly, or setting region-wide standards for medicinal prescriptions).

5 CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONS

With the Caribbean Cannabis Institute already in place, further invest in capacity building by leveraging it as a regional hub. Use it to train national regulators, lab technicians, and law enforcement on new policies, while also strengthening national cannabis authorities for effective implementation of harmonized rules. Additionally, upgrade laboratories for testing and establish cross-border databases to track legal shipments and monitor adverse events.

2 FORM A REGIONAL WORKING GROUP

Leverage the existing Caribbean Cannabis Forum by forming a regional working group with representatives from each member state—regulators, legal experts, public health officials, and industry stakeholders. This multidisciplinary team will draft harmonized guidelines or model legislation based on best practices from within and outside the region.

4 DRAFTING AND AGREEMENT

The working group prepares a Caribbean Cannabis Policy White Paper or a draft treaty outlining common standards and procedures. Member states review and negotiate the details, then move toward an agreement (this could be an opt-in treaty or an amendment to the CARICOM Single Market agreements). Important components might be agreements on quality standards, a mechanism for inter-country trade under medical/religious exemptions, and unified positions on international treaty engagement (such as collectively advocating for changes in UN drug scheduling).

6 NATIONAL ADOPTION AND ROLLOUT

Each country proceeds to formally adopt the harmonized framework through its legislative process. This may involve amending existing laws or enacting new comprehensive cannabis acts aligned with the regional model. Governments should phase the rollout in a coordinated timeline, if possible – for instance, agreeing that by a certain year, all member states will have enacted the core elements.

ONGOING COORDINATION AND EVOLUTION

Even after the initial implementation, it is crucial to maintain a robust, ongoing regional coordination committee that meets regularly—whether quarterly, annually, or biannually—to review and adjust policies as needed. The cannabis market is dynamic, with rapid shifts in technology, consumer behavior, and regulatory landscapes; therefore, the Caribbean framework must remain adaptable. These periodic reviews should incorporate the latest public health research, evolving global market trends, and updated regional economic data to refine regulatory standards, licensing protocols, and enforcement practices.

In addition, the committee should establish clear performance indicators to monitor outcomes across member states—tracking metrics such as economic growth, tax revenues, youth usage rates, and the impacts on criminal justice—to ensure the unified policy meets its goals and to identify areas requiring joint improvements. This collective monitoring not only aids in making evidence-based adjustments but also builds a foundation for further collaboration.

Over time, this coordinated approach can expand beyond internal policy adjustments to forging external partnerships. By negotiating trade terms as a unified Caribbean cannabis market, member states can engage more effectively with other blocs and countries, leveraging their combined bargaining power to secure favorable export conditions and attract international investment. Such a strategy would ensure that the region remains competitive on the global stage while continuously improving its regulatory framework and public health outcomes.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY PROJECTS



FINANCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOUNDATIONS

BY INTEGRATING TRADITIONAL INVESTMENTS WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, INVESTORS CAN HELP BUILD A ROBUST, INNOVATIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE CARIBBEAN CANNABIS MARKET THAT MEETS THE DEMANDS OF BOTH LOCAL CONSUMERS AND INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS.



A thriving Caribbean cannabis industry requires robust financial and infrastructural support:

Specialized Banking Framework:

- The current reluctance of many banks to serve cannabis businesses is a major barrier. Establish a specialized regional banking charter tailored to the cannabis sector. Such a framework would offer clear regulatory guidelines and risk mitigation strategies, ensuring secure transactions, easier access to capital, and increased investor confidence.

Modernizing Energy and Water Infrastructure:

- Reliable energy and water supplies are essential for cultivation and processing. Invest in upgrading aging electrical grids and water distribution systems across the islands. Prioritize renewable energy initiatives—solar, wind, or even localized power generation at cultivation sites—to ensure a continuous, cost-effective power supply. Simultaneously, modernize water resource management to support efficient irrigation and processing, reducing operational costs and environmental impact.

A thriving Caribbean cannabis industry demands robust financial and infrastructural support. By establishing a specialized regional banking charter tailored to our sector, we can secure transactions, unlock capital access, and boost investor confidence. At the same time, modernizing our energy and water infrastructure—especially through renewable initiatives—will ensure efficient, sustainable cultivation and processing across our islands.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS

CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE BOLD AND PROACTIVE STEPS TO REFORM CANNABIS POLICY IN LINE WITH REGIONAL BEST PRACTICES AND GLOBAL TRENDS.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Modernize and Harmonize Legislation: Update outdated cannabis laws by declassifying cannabis as a “dangerous drug” and removing criminal sanctions for responsible use. Instead, institute a legal regulatory regime that emphasizes public health, education, and human rights. This includes formally legalizing medicinal cannabis and sacramental use, and decriminalizing small quantities for adult personal use. Governments should work through CARICOM to synchronize these reforms regionally, adopting common definitions and standards so that laws are consistent across the Caribbean.

2

Establish Robust Regulatory Bodies: Create or strengthen dedicated cannabis regulatory authorities to oversee licensing, quality control, and compliance. These bodies must ensure that all cannabis products meet safety standards (through lab testing, proper labeling, and controlled distribution). They should also facilitate training for law enforcement and regulators about the new rules to ensure smooth implementation. A regional network of these authorities can be formed to share information and best practices, paving the way for mutual recognition of licenses and collaborative oversight.

3

Implement Public Health and Safety Measures: Governments should proactively safeguard public health as cannabis becomes more accessible. This means setting age limits (e.g. 18 or 21) for non-medical use and strictly enforcing them, running public awareness campaigns on the risks of abuse (especially targeting youth and pregnant women), and integrating cannabis use disorder treatment into public health services. It is also recommended to impose moderate taxation on cannabis products – high enough to fund regulation and health programs, but not so high that illegal markets are revived. Additionally, officials must update road safety laws (e.g. introduce drug-impaired driving penalties and education) and workplace safety regulations in tandem with cannabis law reforms.

4

Promote Regional Collaboration: As a key project, governments should pursue a unified Caribbean Cannabis Plan – a coordinated strategy that could include a regional agreement allowing medical cannabis trade and shared research initiatives. By aligning policies, countries can collectively negotiate better terms internationally and avoid undercutting each other. This collaboration could involve pooling resources to develop regional testing labs and centers of excellence for training cultivators and scientists. It also means exploring innovative legal mechanisms like an inter se treaty modification among CARICOM members to enable lawful intra-regional commerce in cannabis. Such steps would amplify the economic potential of the industry and reinforce regulatory strength through unity.

5

Social Equity Provisions: Governments must ensure that the new cannabis industry benefits local communities and redresses past injustices from prohibition. This includes expunging or pardoning past minor cannabis convictions to clear the records of those who bore the brunt of criminalization. It also involves reserving a portion of licenses or providing micro-license categories for small traditional farmers and entrepreneurs from communities most impacted by the war on drugs. Financial support (low-interest loans, grants) and technical assistance programs should be instituted to help these groups enter the legal market. By building social equity into licensing and policy (as Jamaica has attempted with its Alternative Development Programme for small farmers), governments can prevent a purely corporate takeover and instead empower Caribbean people at the grassroots. This will help avoid a scenario where traditional growers are left behind in the new legal era.



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

THE CARIBBEAN CANNABIS INDUSTRY OFFERS PROMISING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, BUT SUCCESS HINGES ON STRATEGIC APPROACHES THAT INCORPORATE BOTH TRADITIONAL CULTIVATION AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Cultivation and Production Ventures:

Invest in scalable cultivation projects that capitalize on the region's ideal growing conditions. There is strong potential in producing high-quality, medical-grade cannabis for both local use and export. Partnerships with local farmers to establish large-scale outdoor or greenhouse operations, focused on organic and "island-grown" boutique strains, can command premium prices. Investments in processing facilities to produce value-added products—such as oils, tinctures, capsules, and CBD wellness products—are equally critical for capturing more revenue locally.

Infrastructure and Ancillary Services:

Beyond cultivation, investors should support ancillary industries that underpin the cannabis sector. This includes developing modern laboratories for rigorous product testing, secure distribution networks, and advanced technology solutions such as seed-to-sale tracking systems. There is also significant opportunity in industrial hemp cultivation for textiles, bioplastics, and wellness supplements. Government incentives, like tax breaks or reduced licensing fees, can further boost investments in these areas.

Technology and Digital Applications:

Embrace technology to streamline operations and boost market reach. Digital platforms and mobile applications can facilitate direct sales to tourists, offering online ordering, cashless transactions, and delivery services in key tourist destinations. Augmented reality or virtual tours can enhance the visitor experience at cannabis-related attractions or dispensaries. Additionally, leveraging e-commerce platforms can help local producers reach a broader market. Investments in tech infrastructure will not only improve operational efficiency but also position Caribbean cannabis as a modern, innovative industry.

Tourism and Wellness Integration:

The region's strong tourism sector offers unique synergies with cannabis. Investors can explore projects such as wellness resorts or retreats that incorporate cannabis therapies and medicinal spa treatments. Cannabis education tours and designated consumption lounges could appeal to tourists seeking safe and regulated experiences. Merging cannabis with the Caribbean's established wellness and relaxation brand has the potential to unlock substantial value.

Strategic Market Entry and Partnerships:

Given regulatory complexities, joint ventures and strategic partnerships with established local businesses, farmer cooperatives, and indigenous enterprises are essential. Early engagement with policymakers and a keen understanding of each country's licensing timeline will provide first-mover advantages in countries with mature frameworks such as Jamaica, Barbados, or Saint Vincent. Collaboration with organizations like the Caribbean Cannabis Institute (CCI) and local Chambers of Commerce can support training programs and market development. These partnerships not only help mitigate risks but also foster long-term market stability and brand loyalty.

ISC Private Cocktail



27/03/2025
FROM 5PM
Dominica

Open to invited guests and ISC members
Engage with leading regulators
Network with international investors

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SHAPING THIS REPORT AND ADVANCING THE CARIBBEAN CANNABIS MARKET

Dominica Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy

Hon. Roland Royer, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy

Hon. Jullan Defoe, Minister of State (with specific responsibility for Fisheries and Blue Economy)

Ryan Anselm, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Al-Mario Casimir, PhD – Technical Senior Officer, Policy and Planning

Median LaRocque- Technical Officer

Adisa Trotter- Technical Officer

Caribbean Cannabis Forum:

Special thanks to our partners at the Caribbean Cannabis Forum for their ongoing collaboration and insight.

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Shanika Roberts-Odle

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Thomas O'Neill (CMO @ International Society of Cannabis)

Same Epee (CEO @ International Society of Cannabis)

Tyler Burrows

Jefferson Pascal

Albert Raffoul

Kalihi Esprit

Heartfelt thanks to all ISC members for their dedication and commitment.

Dominica Government:

We express our warmest gratitude to the Government of Dominica for their visionary leadership and unwavering support in driving forward this transformative initiative.

Your collective expertise, guidance, and support have been crucial in advancing a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking cannabis sector in the Caribbean. Thank you for your commitment to shaping a better future for the region.

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