

Introduction

The Small Arms problem in South Eastern Europe

The uncontrolled proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is a serious problem in South Eastern Europe (SEE),¹ fuelling crime and insecurity, and undermining conflict prevention and peace-building efforts in the region. The past collapse or weakness of many state institutions in SEE has been an additional cause of instability and uncertainty in a region that has suffered successive conflicts over the last ten years. The result has been high levels of SALW proliferation and a widely-perceived need among many communities in the region to retain SALW for personal security in the context of recent instability and violence. Although there have been various efforts to collect SALW following the end of the conflicts, some more successful than others, SALW proliferation and diffusion among the region's population remains a serious problem, and 'the tools of violence – guns, ammunition and explosives – are still easily available on regional markets'.²

Although less of a concern in countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, which remained outside of the instability and conflicts affecting much of the region, the inter-group conflict associated with the break-up of the former Yugoslavia seriously damaged public confidence in law enforcement agencies in many countries of the region. Confidence in state security providers has in general been eroded by widespread corruption and the limited capacity of police to effectively stem high crime levels, illegal weapons possession and the illicit transfer of SALW and other contraband in the region. A lack of trust in the official providers of security inevitably fosters the need, or perception of need, to retain weapons for personal protection, thus providing justification for continued possession of arms in a post-conflict environment, a tendency particularly apparent in mixed ethnicity and border areas. Alongside this tendency, the emergence of modern 'gang' gun cultures is also apparent, with many commentators agreeing that traditional 'gun culture' has in many cases now developed into a culture of violence, particularly in the Western Balkans.³

Although public campaigns have supported SALW collection efforts in several SEE countries – and these should be welcomed – in most countries no long-term sustained efforts have been made to change public attitudes to guns and gun ownership, and to raise awareness of their potential dangers. Effective implementation of firearms possession legislation, and in many cases the strengthening of legislation, is also needed in SEE, both to reduce the number of illegal weapons in circulation and to instil norms of responsible behaviour towards firearms.

The recent period of secession and transition in much of SEE seriously damaged and reduced administrative and law enforcement control, leading to a steep rise in organised

1 The countries covered by this report are those participating in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe's Regional Implementation Plan 'Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons': Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (hereafter 'Macedonia'), Moldova, Romania and the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, including the internationally-administered entity of Kosovo.

2 'Global Disarmament, Demilitarization and Demobilization – BICC Conversion Survey 2002' (hereafter 'BICC Conversion Survey 2002'), Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), 2002, p 141.

3 See discussion in 'Gun culture' section, 'Macedonia: Guns, policing and ethnic division', Anna Matveeva with Duncan Hiscock, Wolf-Christian Paes and Hans Risser, *Saferworld/BICC*, October 2003, pp 38–42.

crime⁴ and the 'emergence and consolidation of a strong black market and networks of trafficking routes across the Balkans'.⁵ Although the demand within the region for arms has decreased as conflict has abated, the illegal weapons trade remains a significant problem. The activities of established criminal networks and the lack of strict arms export controls has resulted in weapons being trafficked across the region, and also further afield to Western Europe and beyond, including cases of weapons trafficking to countries under UN arms embargoes and to terrorist groups.⁶ Such activities are indicative of the often poor, or poorly implemented, legislative and regulatory controls on arms production and export. This is an area that requires far greater attention and improvement in the coming years.

Compounding the situation are the challenges posed by porous borders and weak controls, failings that are exploited by transnational organised criminal groups. Effective border control is prevented by problems with co-operation and exchange of information. These exist not only between countries of the region, but also often at the national level between different departments or agencies, with confused and slow mechanisms being typical of national governments in SEE.⁷

In addition to modernising and strengthening border control, governments in the region are also dealing with the challenge of restructuring military and police forces. Many countries in SEE have military structures no longer relevant for current security needs, as well as substantial stockpiles of now outdated weaponry and ammunition – stockpiles which will continue to grow as military downsizing progresses. Consequently, destruction is a key challenge in SEE, and one that remains to be addressed fully. Despite progress so far, storage of weaponry and ammunition in many cases falls below international standards, compromising both safety and security, with the risk that weapons and ammunition might enter into circulation on the black market.

On the issue of stockpile security, as with many other SALW-related areas, very little information is publicly available and transparency on SALW in the region is in general poor, though improving. In only very limited cases is there parliamentary oversight of and input into SALW policy and decision-making, and the publication of official information on the issue is extremely limited, usually to current SALW control measures such as collection initiatives. Although non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have become more involved in work on SALW issues in recent years, there still a wide gap between civil society and government on arms and security issues.

The capacity of SEE governments and civil society to work on SALW is in general relatively low, with many actors poorly equipped to tackle problems effectively and implement

4 The FBI believes that organised crime in the Balkans, as well as Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, is expanding and will continue to do so; concerns are such that the FBI has established a Balkan Organised Crime initiative. 'FBI weighs in on Balkan organised crime', Daily Media Review, 22 - 23 November 2003, www.seesac.org.

5 'Cross-border trafficking in South Eastern Europe – assessing trafficking activities in the Southern Adriatic region', EastWest Institute, SEESAC APD 17, September 2003, p 9.

6 Reports on the supply of weaponry to Iraq, as well as possible diversions of Romanian weaponry to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and to ETA and the Real IRA from the region are detailed below in the country chapters. As Jane's notes, for groups such as the IRA the countries of the former Yugoslavia have been seen as a 'promising market': 'as a result of the recent civil wars, there is a flourishing black market in military hardware and it is possible to buy almost anything a paramilitary group would need, including handguns, assault rifles, explosives, heavy machine guns and anti-tank weapons'. 'Real IRA arms purchasing in Croatia indicates a change of tactics', Jane's Terrorism and Security Monitor, 23 August 2003, www.janes.com.

7 'Inter-agency cooperation at the Croatian, BiH and Montenegrin borders in the region [South Adriatic], especially operating procedures and competencies of the individual agencies, is based upon numerous regulations, agreements, memoranda of understanding and other documents. However in reality inter-agency co-operation both on intra-state and inter-state levels is still hampered by unclear dividing lines between competencies of different agencies and within their subordinate elements and missing legislation, treaties, protocols agreement, etc. This is compounded by individual tensions over salary differences, war grievances, and various levels of corruption in the ranks and has created a system where inter-agency and cross-border cooperation is possible, but not systematic.' Op cit, SEESAC APD 17, p 2.

successful projects. Much remains to be done to build capacity, and the international community needs to act in a more co-ordinated and comprehensive manner, with long-term goals in mind, in order to help provide SEE countries with the skills and resources needed to combat the multiple problems posed by illicit SALW proliferation. Despite the significant resources invested by international donors and institutions towards stabilising the situation in South Eastern Europe, if left unchallenged, problems related to SALW are likely to continue to pose a serious constraint to economic and social development and peace-building.

Small Arms policy and practice in South Eastern Europe

The conflict surrounding the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, the 1997 crisis in Albania and the region's general move towards integration in Euro-Atlantic structures has resulted in high levels of international input and activity in SEE, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Aid from international donors has significantly assisted post-conflict recovery across the region. In addition, all countries in the region aspire to join the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and a number of reforms are being taken in various areas to meet accession requirements.

These moves are equally relevant to SALW policy and practice. All states will have to deal with the problems of SALW proliferation, trafficking, destruction and production and export practices before EU and NATO membership will be possible. While several SEE states have taken independent and very positive steps towards greater SALW control, international and EU policy and standards on SALW are crucially relevant to national SALW policy and practice. SEE countries have been eager to prove themselves in this context and have made commitments to a number of documents and agreements on SALW that should now help to determine their action on the issue.

International and regional commitments to combat SALW

Several important regional and international agreements and initiatives have helped to encourage and facilitate action on SALW. By providing policy frameworks and guidance for governments and international agencies, these have highlighted problems, established priorities and in some cases provided practical support to assist implementation. A summary of the agreements and documents that have helped influence the SALW policy agenda in South Eastern Europe is given below (in chronological order).⁸

The Wassenaar Arrangement On Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA) is an international regime established in 1995. It seeks to prevent destabilising accumulations of weaponry through its formal process of transparency and consultation, and its participants have agreed to use their national

⁸ These summaries of international documents, with the exception of the Stability Pact RIP, have been largely drawn from the more detailed overviews given in 'Arms production, exports and decision-making in Central and Eastern Europe', Bernardo Mariani and Chrissie Hirst, Saferworld 2002, p 6.

policies to control the items and technologies contained in the WA lists of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies and Munitions.⁹

In June 1998 the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports was agreed. The Code lists a set of criteria to guide decisions on whether to grant or refuse export licence applications, and includes the agreement of a groundbreaking denial notification system. EU member states are directly bound by this political undertaking, which also applies to SALW, and are full members of its operational mechanisms; in the five years since its agreement, the code has come to be seen as the most progressive and effective regional transfer control regime. The December 1998 Joint Action on the EU's Contribution to Combating the Destabilising Accumulation and Spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons builds on the Code of Conduct and takes a regional and incremental approach to dealing with the problems posed by proliferation. All EU associate countries have formally aligned themselves with the Code and Joint Action, including Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia.

In November 2000, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) states, including the countries of SEE, adopted the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which outlines strict standards and measures aimed at fostering responsible behaviour towards the transfer of small arms, including provisions on regional co-operation and commitments to combating illicit trafficking and confidential information exchange.¹⁰ Complementing the Small Arms Document, in December 2003 OSCE states agreed a second document, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, which deals with risks arising from surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices and offers practical mechanisms for national capacities and assistance.¹¹

A supplement to the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials (also known as the 'Firearms Protocol') was adopted by the UN General Assembly in March 2001 and will enter into force when a threshold number of countries (40) have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Protocol. The Firearms Protocol contains practical, tools-based measures such as agreements on marking, record-keeping and tracing firearms and on the import, export and transit of firearms, designed to assist law enforcement communities, enhancing international co-operation and promoting greater transparency in legal transfers of firearms. Of the SEE countries, only Romania and Bulgaria have ratified the Protocol to date.

The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects resulted from the UN July 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects and is now seen as the major international framework for tackling SALW proliferation and misuse. The UN Programme of Action (PoA) includes a range of voluntary national, regional and global measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. National measures include the introduction of legislation to: control the production, storage, export and transit of SALW; ensure marking and tracing of SALW;

9 At a meeting 11 – 12 December 2003, the WA adopted 'Best Practice Guidelines for Exports of SALW', which include non-binding criteria for exports of SALW.

10 In December 2003, the OSCE launched 'The Handbook of Best Practices on SALW', a new set of guidelines which has been developed by the Forum for Security and Co-operation.

11 'New OSCE document tackles risks from ammunition', Feature Story, www.osce.org, referenced 09 November 2003.

control the licensing of manufacturers; and criminalise illicit SALW-related activities. Regional measures include establishing regional information-sharing mechanisms and co-operation between law enforcement agencies. Global measures include: the effective implementation of UN arms embargoes; encouragement of disarmament; strengthening of global tracing and policing mechanisms; and co-operation with civil society. All SEE states attended the Conference, and most reported on PoA implementation to the subsequent Biennial Meeting of States in 2003 to review progress so far.

Sub-regional commitments to combat SALW: The Stability Pact and SEESAC

In November 2001, a more specific, regionally-focused document was adopted by the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The Regional Implementation Plan (RIP), 'Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons' was developed on the basis of discussions at various regional fora, including a meeting of the Szeged Small Arms Process (SSAP). An informal process which assists governments, civil society and international organisations to discuss and develop practical projects aimed at combating the proliferation and misuse of SALW across the South Eastern Europe region, the SSAP provided for discussion and awareness-raising on SALW among decision-makers before the advent of the Stability Pact RIP, and a useful forum for its development. Established at a meeting in Szeged, Hungary in 2000, three regional meetings of the SSAP have been held to date (Szeged I and II in Szeged in 2000 and 2001, and Szeged III in Belgrade in 2002) with the support of Saferworld, and a variety of meetings, activities and research have been undertaken within the SSAP Framework. Since being approached in 2001 to provide input, the SSAP has focused on supporting the RIP's implementation and has also seconded two participants to work for a year as NGO Co-ordinator/SALW Awareness Facilitator within SEESAC.¹²

The Stability Pact's Regional Implementation Plan was agreed by the South East European Stability Pact states in November 2001,¹³ with the broad aims of stopping the flow and availability of SALW in the region, consolidating achievements so far, and thereby supporting the socio-economic conditions for peace and development. The countries included within the RIP framework are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro. Designed to take the development of various international agreements and initiatives a step further by providing both a specific sub-regional framework for action, and the regional mechanisms and the donor resources required for comprehensive implementation, the RIP does not seek to compete with or contradict existing agreements and arrangements but to build upon them in the most practical way possible. Recognising and combining commitments outlined in various other documents on all major aspects of SALW control – including export/import and domestic legislation, regulation, policing and border control, awareness-raising, stockpile management and destruction, collection – in a coherent and regionally-specific manner, the RIP provides a baseline assessment of South East European countries' commitments to change. At its core, the RIP seeks to enhance regional co-

¹² Applying from the organisations active in the SSAP, secondees have been selected by the SSAP Steering Committee and SEESAC Team Leader, with both secondments to date from Saferworld.

¹³ The full text of the RIP is included in Annex 5.1 of this report.

operation in the critical area of addressing the negative impact of SALW proliferation in South Eastern Europe, providing both information-sharing and local standard-setting geared towards direct project formulation and implementation.

In contrast to many other arms control agreements, the RIP provides concrete mechanisms for assisting countries' implementation of commitments and involving those governments in priority-setting and decision-making on region-wide efforts, thus providing the maximum potential 'buy-in' of the relevant SALW-control agreements. The participation of countries of the region is organised through the Regional Steering Group (RSG), consisting of national SALW focal points or representatives of all governments involved, and observers from key organisations or agencies (such as the Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR), the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), etc). Meeting on a semi-annual basis, the RSG acts as a regional governmental forum for progress on the Plan and oversees the work of the 'clearinghouse' that was set up to provide additional practical assistance for governments. To date, three meetings of the Stability Pact's Regional Steering Group have been held, hosted by Macedonia, Albania and Croatia respectively.



The South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) was established in May 2002 in order to facilitate and inform activities under the framework of the Plan. SEESAC is a joint project of the Stability Pact and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), based in Belgrade, with a mandate to offer technical support, guidance and information on best practice on the various areas of SALW control to implementers in the region. SEESAC also has a budget for seed funding or support of smaller micro-disarmament projects.



The May 2002 launch of SEESAC was accompanied by a ceremonial weapons destruction in front of Belgrade's town hall.

Table 1 – SEE countries' commitments to arms or SALW control agreements

Country	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Croatia	Macedonia	Moldova	Romania	Serbia and Montenegro (formerly FRY)
Arms or SALW Control Agreement								
Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan	November 2001	November 2001	November 2001	November 2001	November 2001	November 2001	November 2001	November 2001
UN Programme of Action	July 2001	July 2001	July 2001	July 2001	July 2001	July 2001	July 2001	July 2001
UN Firearms Protocol	-	-	August 2002	-	-	-	February 2004	-
OSCE Document on Small Arms	November 2000	November 2000	November 2000	November 2000	November 2000	November 2000	November 2000	November 2000
OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition	December 2003	December 2003	December 2003	December 2003	December 2003	December 2003	December 2003	December 2003
EU Code of Conduct	-	January 2003 ¹⁴	August 1998	2001 ¹⁵	-	-	July 1998	-
EU Joint Action on SALW	-	-	December 1998	-	-	-	December 1998	-
Wassenaar Arrangement	-	-	July 1996	-	-	-	April 1996	-

14 The Code was incorporated into domestic legislation in 2003, see Section 2 – Bosnia and Herzegovina below.

15 Croatian representatives to the UN announced in July 2001 and October 2002 that the Government has taken the decision to apply the EU Code's Criteria in advance of its EU accession; see Section 2 – Croatia below.

Regional trends and action to combat SALW

The regional and international initiatives on SALW in the last few years have given a valuable spur to action in South Eastern Europe. The discussion fora and momentum provided by the OSCE and Szeged Small Arms Process, and the subsequent agreement of the RIP and establishment of SEESAC, greatly assisted both the development of political will amongst governments, and the prioritisation of SALW by international organisations active in the region. High-level international agreements on SALW, such as the UN PoA, have supported this progress and helped to encourage donor support for projects. As a result SALW-related problems have received increased attention from regional policy- and decision-makers.

National authorities are now more aware of the relevance of SALW to their security and stability, and can more clearly see the advantages of taking positive action on the problem. The Macedonian, Montenegrin and Serbian Governments all held weapons amnesties in 2003, and collection activities continued in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Thousands of surplus and collected SALW were destroyed and several countries passed new, improved legislation and systems for SALW possession and arms production and export. The action taken by South East European governments in the last few years is substantial, and includes participation in region-specific initiatives such as the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) SALW Trafficking Task Force, the SEESAC Arms Law Process and the Ohrid Border Management Conference in May 2003.

Region-specific activities inevitably have more relevance for governments and the advantage of allowing more focus to be given to both individual problems and realistic joint action to solve them. The SECI Task Force was established in December 2001 and through its first project, 'Operation Ploughshares', saw countries of the region exchanging information on illicit arms seizures, thus greatly aiding the effectiveness of law enforcement control.¹⁶ The SEESAC Arms Law Process held its first meeting in November 2002, where representatives from all SEE countries met to discuss ways of improving legislation on domestic possession and arms export and the possibilities for improved harmonisation of legislative controls across the region. Since then a number of countries have reformed legislation and a second meeting is scheduled for May 2004.¹⁷ The participation of all Western Balkans countries in the Ohrid Border Management Conference in May 2003 and the adoption of a 'Common Platform' and 'Way Forward Document' marked a key step forward in improving border control and combating trafficking activities, including SALW smuggling.¹⁸ Through the Ohrid conference, countries made specific commitments to share information and increase the capacity and co-ordination of border personnel, with the longer-term objective of full implementation of integrated border management in accordance with European standards. The four partner organisations that organised the conference, NATO, the EU, the OSCE and the Stability Pact, have all pledged to continue supporting countries to meet their objectives with a range of financial and technical advice and support.¹⁹

16 For more details, see Section 2 – Albania, and Annex C

17 See Annex D for the Conclusions of the November 2002 Arms Law Roundtable.

18 See Annexes E and F for the Ohrid Common Platform and Way Forward Document.

19 'Way Forward Document', Ohrid Regional Conference on Border Security and Management, 22-23 May 2003.

Non-governmental organisations have also increased their level of involvement on SALW issues. In 1998 only limited NGO action was being undertaken, mainly associated with collection in Albania, while other activities in the region until 2000 were mainly confined to research and related projects by international NGOs. However, from 2000 and 2001 more local NGOs began to get involved in SALW issues, though slowly, mainly within the framework of the Szeged Small Arms Process. In 2002, a major step forward came with the establishment of the SEE NGO SALW Network,²⁰ and regional co-ordination continues to develop through this network and international mechanisms such as the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). With valuable support from international NGOs such as Saferworld and Pax Christi, various capacity-building and training of NGOs, civil society and the media has been undertaken and SALW projects have been supported across the region. The result has been that in 2003, local NGO-implemented SALW projects ranging from research to awareness-raising and campaigning were undertaken in every country in the region.

International organisations and agencies are themselves taking increased action on SALW, beyond the more traditional security sphere, better appreciating that the issue is of key importance to the long-term objectives of handover to national authorities. In 2002 the OSCE and Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR) began the process of setting up new legislative and institutional frameworks to regulate small arms, while the UNDP and UNMIK in Kosovo undertook the first non-KFOR (Kosovo Force) implemented amnesty and collection of SALW in September 2003. In addition to Kosovo, the UNDP has also launched SALW projects in Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE has supported cross-border co-operation projects, and agencies such as the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA), US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have given funding for, or supported, SALW and ammunition destruction and other projects.

Two years on from the agreement of the RIP, it is an appropriate time to summarise the progress made to date by countries in the region on combating SALW problems, to initiate further discussion about steps forward and to identify needs and priorities.

Monitoring progress on combating SALW: SEE SALW Monitor

This report has therefore been undertaken with the objective of providing an overview of how the countries of South Eastern Europe have progressed towards fulfilling their commitments. The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe's Regional Implementation Plan, as both the most inclusive, and regionally relevant, document representing governments' commitments in the area of SALW control is used as a benchmark against which to gauge countries' progress so far.

²⁰ The Network was established at a regional seminar for NGOs held within the framework of the Szeged Small Arms Process in Szeged, Hungary in November 2002, and funded by the London-based NGO Saferworld. The Network has an established list-serve and membership of approximately 50 NGOs, who met for a second annual meeting in Sarajevo in September 2003. The Sarajevo meeting and a further meeting in Skopje in December 2003 saw discussions about ways forward for the Network, including the identification of three focus areas for network action: public awareness-raising on SALW issues, education for children and youth on the dangers of SALW, and joint lobbying of government and other key decision-makers, such as project implementers and donors the international community, on SALW control. See Annex G for the Szeged Call for Action, November 2002.

The report builds on the update produced by SEESAC in September 2003, 'Progress made towards the Objectives of Stability Pact Implementation Plan', including more recent data and expanding in more detail on activities undertaken to date. The report does not represent a technical verification system or a formal inspection report – its role is to collect and present relevant information to facilitate monitoring, discussion and assessment of progress towards the implementation of the RIP.

Funded by SEESAC,²¹ the research and writing of the report was undertaken by Saferworld, an independent non-governmental organisation based in London and working on SALW and security issues in the region and elsewhere.²² The contents therefore reflect an independent and objective presentation of factual information on SEE countries' responses to SALW problems within the RIP Framework based on available evidence; there has been no SEESAC influence in the research direction, formulation or contents of this report. Research for the report was conducted by Saferworld staff from December 2003 to February 2004; through their National SALW Focal Points, Governments in the region were given an opportunity to comment on the final draft of the report and thanks go to those who gave feedback and provided additional information.

The report consists of four main sections: this introductory section; analysis of each country's progress in each of the areas of activity covered by the RIP; an overview of donor support for SALW projects in the region; a concluding section; and annexes containing relevant documents and additional information.

Saferworld and SEESAC acknowledge that this report will have inevitable shortcomings due to constraints such as inaccessible information and limited time for research and production. It is anticipated that the SEE SALW Monitor report will be updated, corrected where necessary and improved on an annual basis and comments and input from all actors and stakeholders are welcomed.

²¹ The research, writing and production of this report has been funded by SEESAC under its operational objective to develop a framework to collect, collate, analyse and disseminate (or support dissemination of), operational data and public information relating to SALW issues within the region in order to generate knowledge and support SALW initiatives.

²² For more information on Saferworld, see www.saferworld.org.uk.