

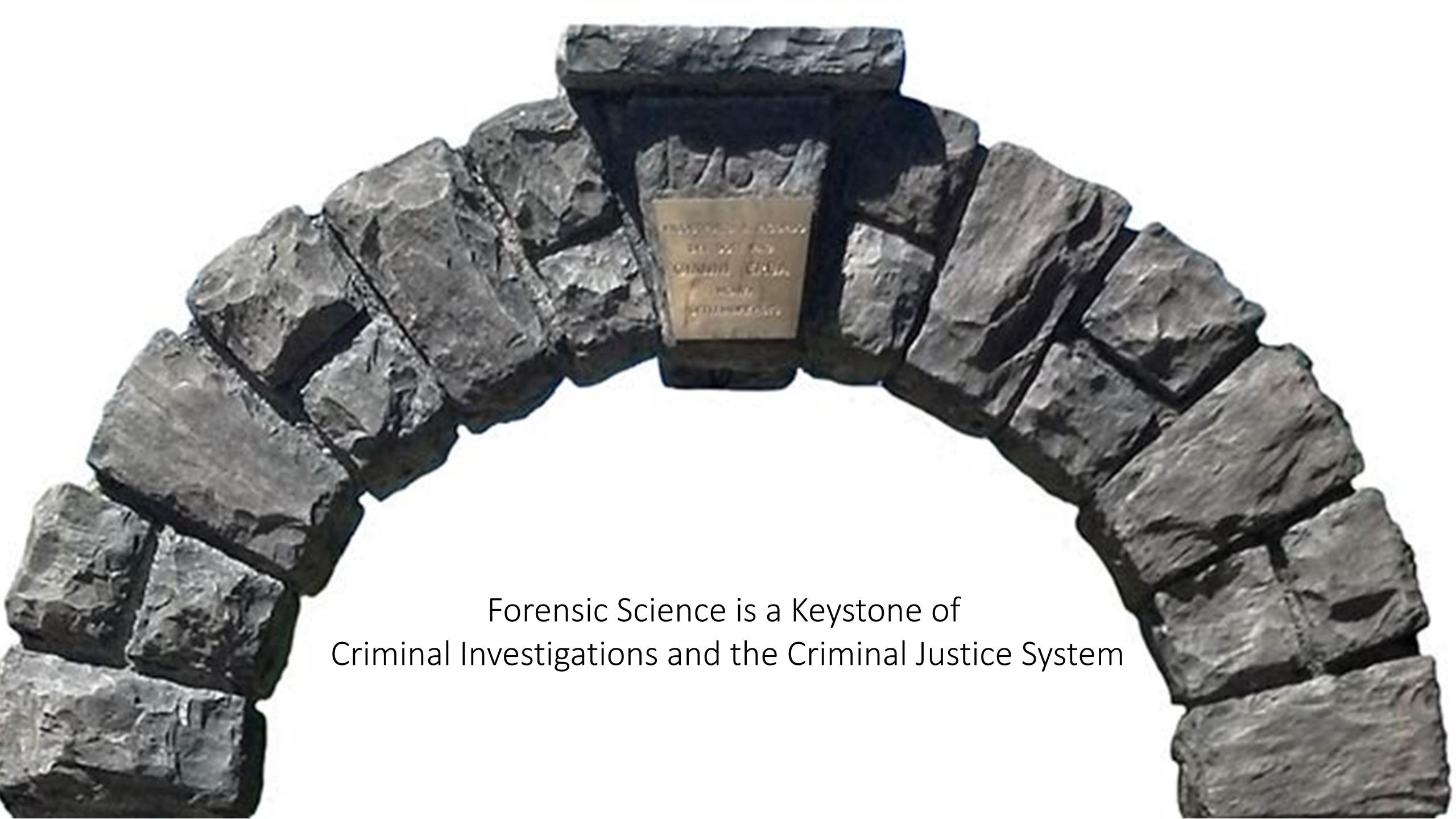


U.S. Department of Justice
Criminal Division
International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program

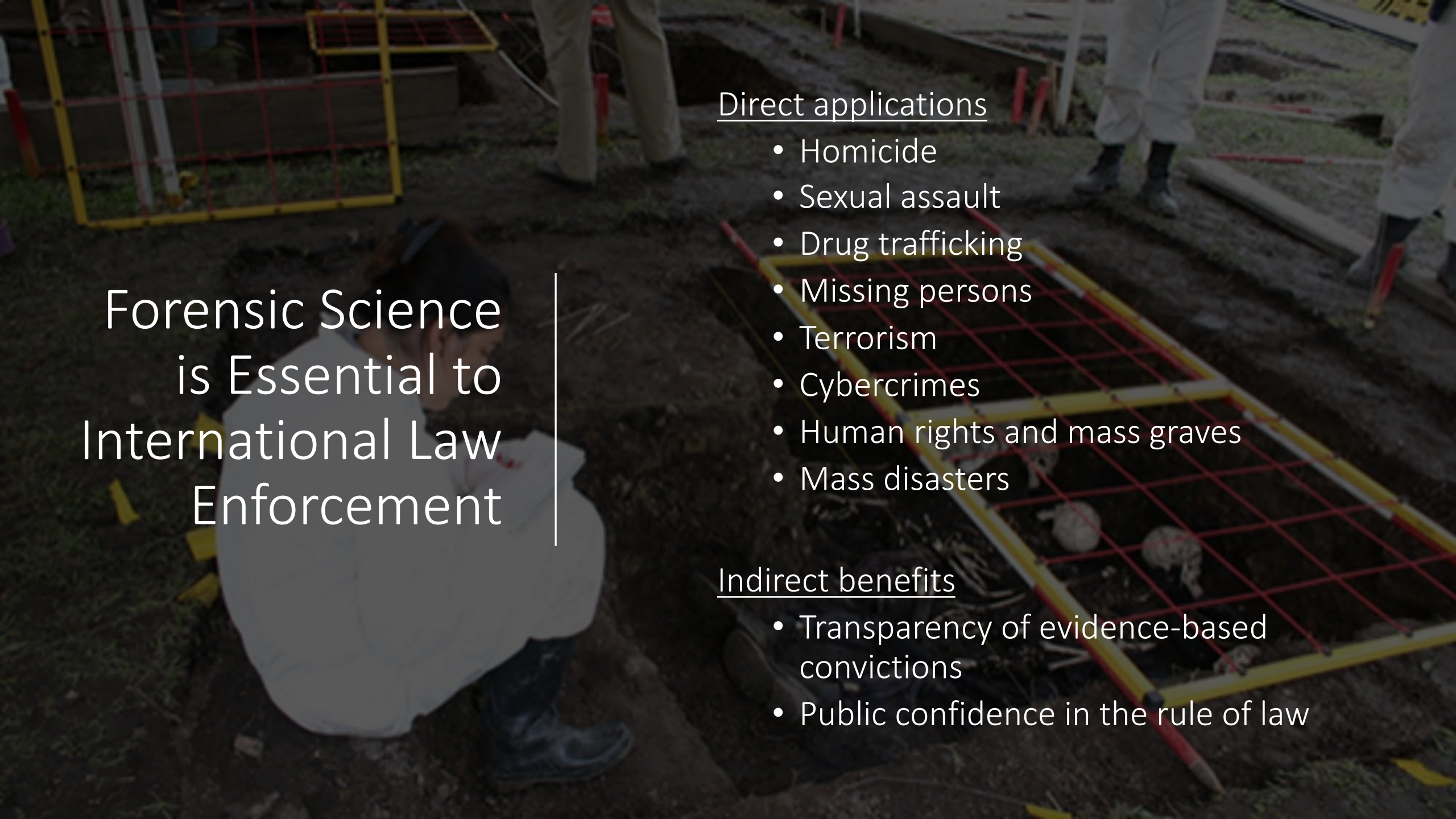


International Accreditation and the Value of Collaboration





Forensic Science is a Keystone of
Criminal Investigations and the Criminal Justice System



Forensic Science is Essential to International Law Enforcement

Direct applications

- Homicide
- Sexual assault
- Drug trafficking
- Missing persons
- Terrorism
- Cybercrimes
- Human rights and mass graves
- Mass disasters

Indirect benefits

- Transparency of evidence-based convictions
- Public confidence in the rule of law



ICITAP's Current Forensic Engagements

Belize

Mexico

Colombia

Montenegro

Costa Rica

Nepal

Guatemala

Niger

Honduras

N. Macedonia

Jordan

Panama

Kenya

Somalia

Goal: Partner forensic services have the capability to aid investigations by providing reliable and timely examinations from the crime scene to courtroom presentation.



Accreditation is a Key Component to ICITAP Forensic Programs

- Higher public confidence in the independence of the forensic investigations
- Improved integrity of forensic information, including DNA, which may be shared between and among countries
- Sustainability is improved through institutionalization of technical assistance into laboratory manuals and SOPs
- Impact outlasts formal assistance through the continuous improvement model and developing a culture of quality





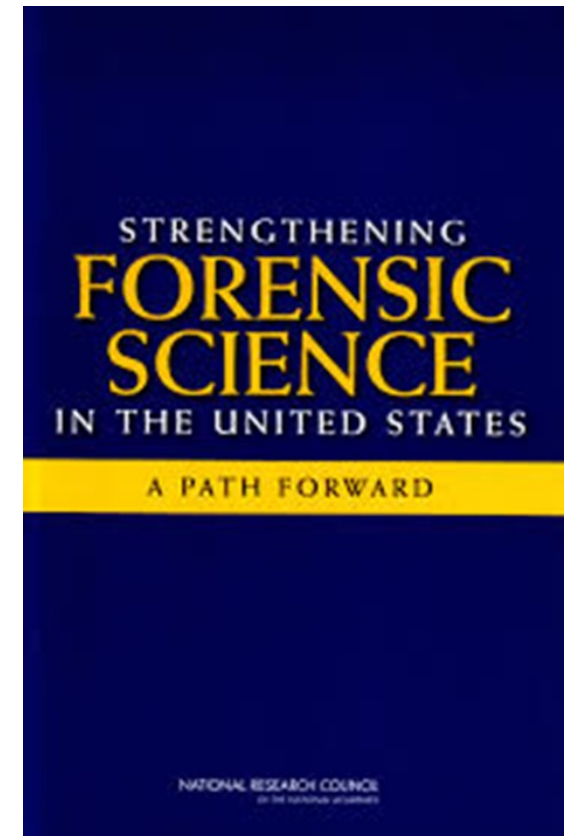
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National Academy of Sciences Report

Recommendation 7: “Laboratory accreditation and individual certification of forensic science professionals should be mandatory, and all forensic science professionals should have access to a certification process...”

Recommendation 8: “Forensic laboratories should establish routine quality assurance and quality control procedures to ensure the accuracy of forensic analyses and the work of forensic practitioners. Quality control procedures should be designed to identify mistakes, fraud, and bias...”



Importance of Accreditation to the European Union

A 2016 European Council decision reaffirmed an earlier decision on the importance of accreditation and focused on forensic evidence in databases or evidence that can be exchanged at an international level, such as information related to guns, drugs, and explosives.

This decision stated : “Beyond "traditional" forensics, recent events have highlighted the urgent need for a swift exchange of reliable digital forensic data that can be used as evidence in court beyond the jurisdiction of the Member State of origin. Therefore, accreditation of forensic procedures should also be pursued as a matter of priority in this area.”

ICITAP-supported Countries with Accredited Laboratories

Algeria	Philippines
Brazil	Kosovo
Bulgaria	Mexico
Costa Rica	Morocco
Colombia	North Macedonia
Egypt	Tanzania
Indonesia	Ukraine
Panama	Uzbekistan

Accredited Laboratory Sections

DNA	Digital Evidence
Chemistry	Toxicology
Firearms	Crime Scene
Fingerprints	Anthropology
Questioned Documents	Medicolegal Death Investigations



ISO 17025
ACCREDITED
LABORATORY

Strategic Approach to Supporting Accreditation Internationally

1. Simplify the process, maintain the rigor
 - Ten step process
 - The three Ps
2. Encourage peer relationships
 - This is a consensus of the international forensic community
3. Promote partner successes
 - Use our partners as role models
 - Use regional forums such as the Mexico's International Forensic Symposium and the Central American Regional Symposium
 - Develop qualified accreditation assessors

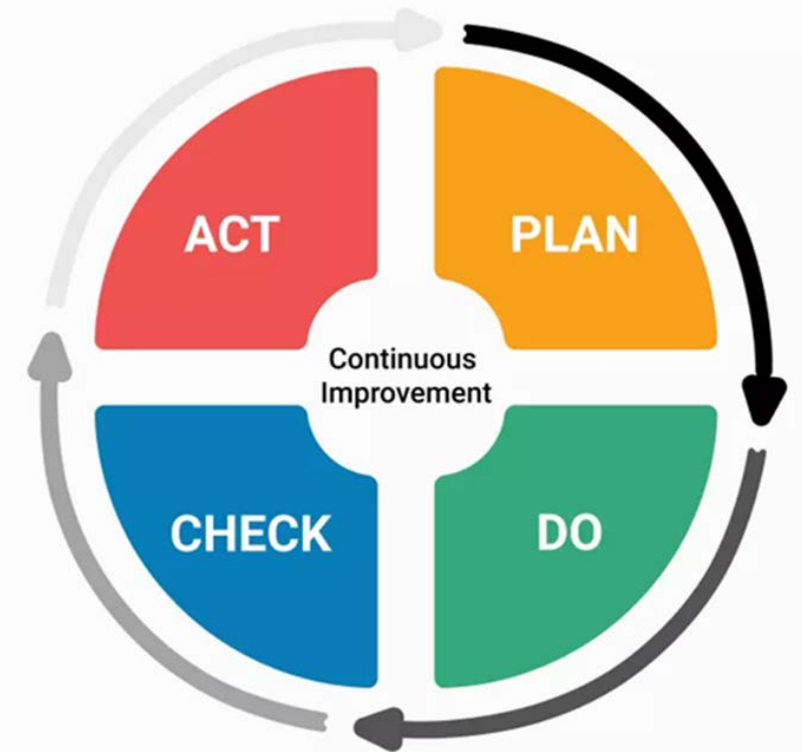




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1. Define of the scope of the accreditation
2. Develop a quality manual and operating procedures (administrative and technical) to meet the scope (by incorporating ISO 17025 and ILAC G19 guidelines)
3. Validate of the desired analytical methods
4. Implementation of the designed management system (a three-month time frame is generally needed for the implemented system to generate documentary evidence)
5. Application of an external competency test through the validated analytical methods in at least one subcategory for each category in the accreditation scope (proficiency testing by ISO/IEC 17043 vendors)

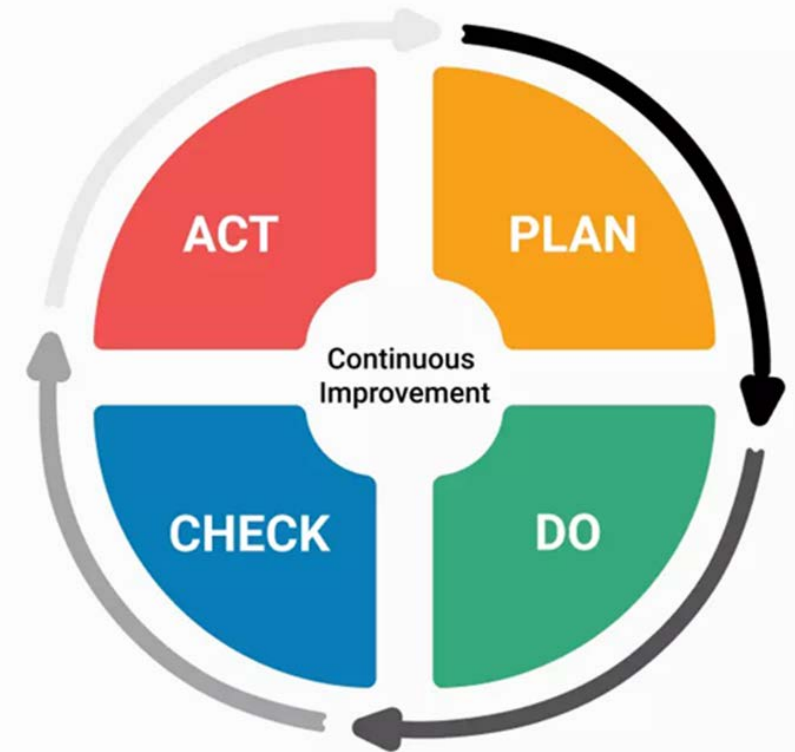




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6. Application of a thorough internal audit by trained in-house auditors
7. Corrections and adjustments to international standards according to deficiencies identified in the internal audit findings
8. Application of a management review for the entire quality management system and preparation of a multi-year proficiency testing plan
9. Submission of audit request to accrediting body
10. Post-audit adjustments as per requirements made by the auditors



ISO Foundational Management Principles

Customer Focus: Meet/exceed customer requirements

Leadership: Create unity of purpose and direction

Involvement of People: Maximize organizational use of abilities

Process Approach: Management of activities and resources

System Approach: Management of interrelated processes

Continual Improvement: Permanent objective

Factual Decision Making: Measurement and data analysis

Mutually Beneficial Relationships: Focus on creation of value





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Building the Culture of Quality

The Police Chief
 THE PROFESSIONAL VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
 FEBRUARY 2017

Culture of Policing

MISSION ETHICS
 OPPORTUNITIES CHALLENGES

Inside:
 Building a Quality Culture
 Public Trust
 Event Deconfliction



BUILDING A QUALITY CULTURE AT THE MEXICAN FORENSIC SYSTEM

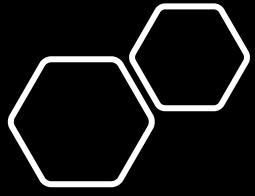
By Leticia Collado, Forensic DNA Supervisor,
 International Criminal Investigative Training
 Assistance Program, Mexico

Crime rates and violence in Mexico are topics that demand the attention of both domestic and international communities on both sides of the Mexico-U.S. border. The U.S.-funded Merida Initiative, beginning in fiscal year 2008, created a mutually beneficial, bilateral partnership between Mexico and the United States. The objective of the initiative includes countering drug trafficking and organized crime, the institutionalization of human rights and rule of law reforms in Mexico, as well as strengthening a modern international border between both nations.¹ The initiative is key to addressing the issues resulting from the transnational nature of modern crime and is perceived as essential to the security of both nations.

On June 16, 2016, Mexico's National Congress published the constitutional amendment decree, mandating a transition to a new national criminal justice system.² This amendment signaled the

change from a federal system and 32 individual state justice systems, which were semi-judicial in nature, to a national adversarial, oral system. This was viewed as a comprehensive and profound reform, creating a national law enforcement and justice system to be fully implemented country-wide by June 2016. In the law enforcement arena, the most important reforms concern the National Public Safety System. In addition to human rights, the reform regulates the recruitment, selection, training, and retention of law enforcement personnel by setting minimum training and quality requirement standards. Competencies are now being established, which require the professionalization of prosecutors, police officers, and forensic examiners.

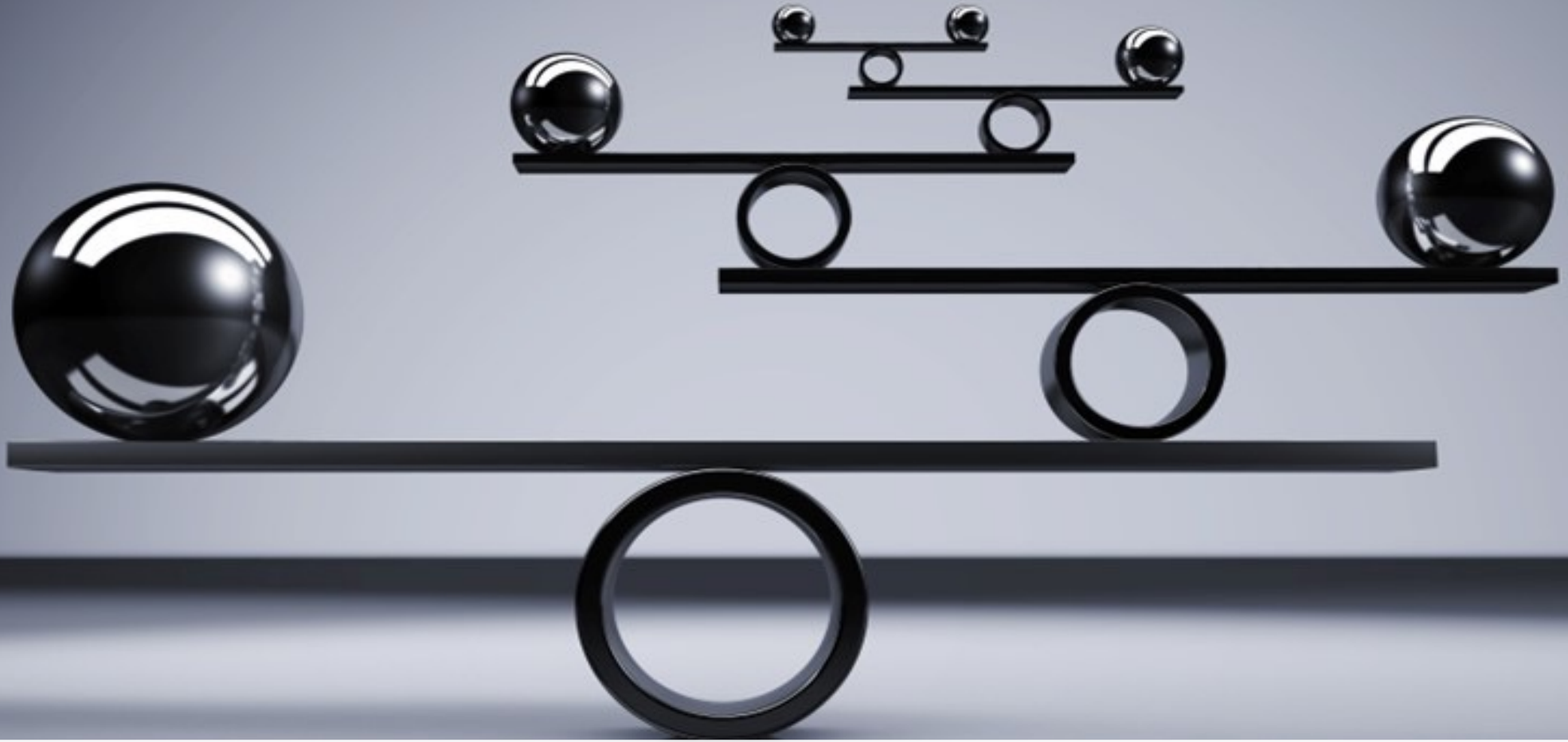
This mandated reform underlines the relevance of reliable forensic lab results in support of investigations, prosecutions, and reporting of facts within a legal process, as well as evidence collection, submission, examination, and admission of trial. In this context, forensic labs must prove their individual reliability and technical competencies, and forensic experts must provide credible, factual expert testimony based on solid scientific analysis, reproducible in any other laboratory around the world.



Leadership Academy

- Scientists typically receive no formal training in management or leadership.
- Developed with the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) Leadership Academy
- The first Academy in August 2017 birthed the creation of the Mexican Committee on Forensic Quality.
- Preparing forensic leaders to drive change and advancements into the future.

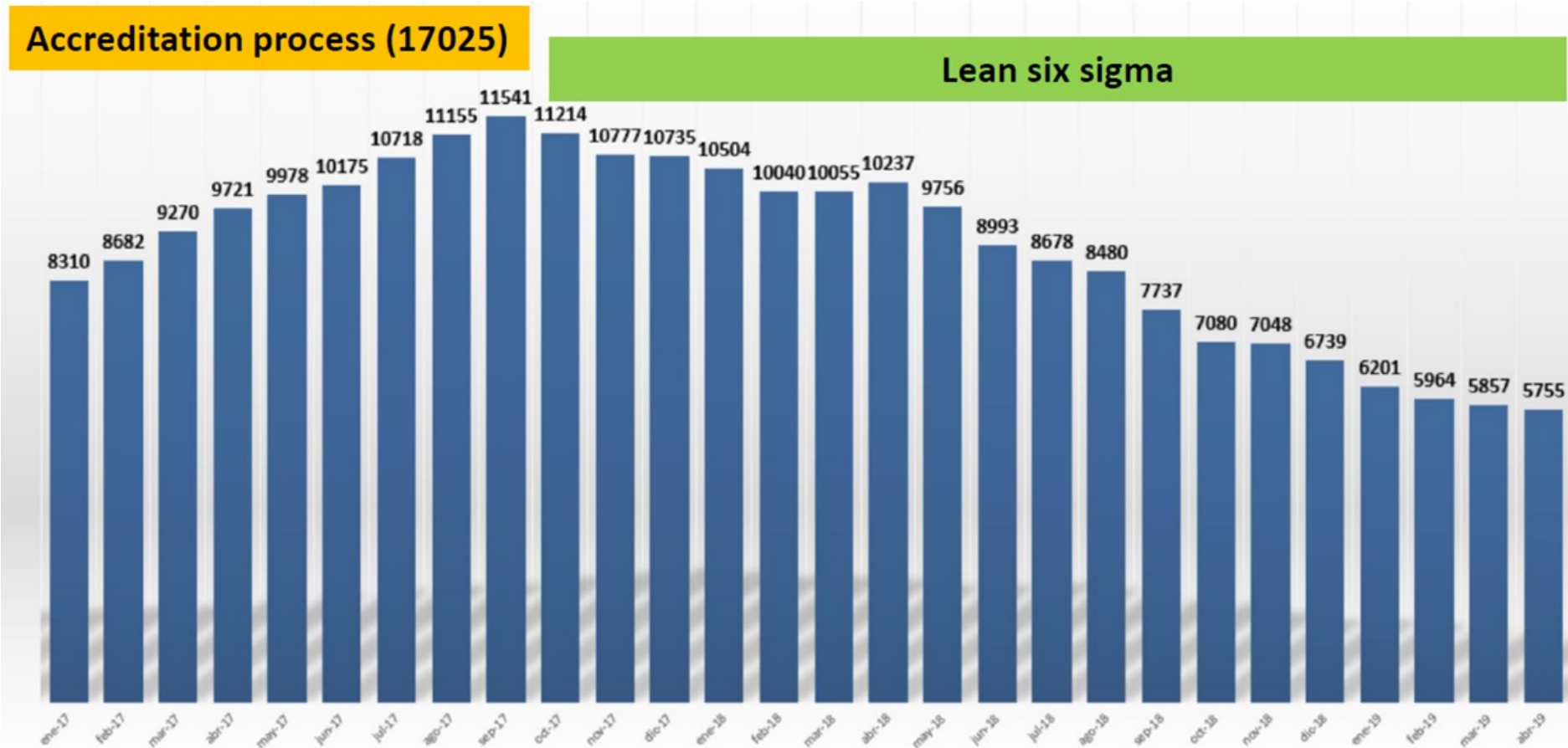




Balancing Quality and Timeliness

Costa Rica Lean Six Sigma Project - Impact on Backlog

Reduced cases in the laboratory over 90 days by 95%



Kenya



*All labor that uplifts
humanity has dignity
and importance and
should be undertaken
with painstaking
excellence.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.



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