ANGOLA

Angola is ranked 32nd in the Index, placing the country just below the continental average for criminality.

High scores in environmental crimes and arms trafficking in particular, drives the overall high ranking, though the country also has two other criminal markets, the human trafficking and cocaine markets, that were assessed as having a moderate negative impact on society. Widespread corruption in the state apparatus, along with the engagement of criminal networks in numerous illicit economies resulted in scores being increased by experts.

In terms of resilience, Angola ranks 20th in Africa, performing better than the continental average. Although Angola has sufficiently strong, state-led institutions and frameworks, including law enforcement, as well as high international engagement, the country scores poorly in the protection of victims and support for civil society.
Criminal Markets

The most significant criminal markets in Angola are in the environmental sector, where both flora and non-renewable-resource crimes scored 7 and 8.5, respectively, which reflects the significant to severe negative impact that these markets have on society. Angola is home to 38 of the 50 most sought-after minerals in the world and has the world’s fifth-largest diamond industry. The country is also one of the largest producers of oil in Africa. Problems related to smuggling and corruption in Angola’s oil and diamond fields share a common thread of predatory elites as well as criminal networks exploiting the resources for their own benefit. Likewise, in the flora sector, illegal logging is perpetrated by unauthorised fellers, as well as by concession holders exceeding their licences or failing to replant illegally cut trees, destined for neighbouring Namibia or Asia. Although the government imposed a new felling and transportation moratorium in 2018 and...
has promised new regulations will be imposed on the timber sector, currently the market continues to have a severely detrimental impact. In terms of fauna, the country is a transit zone for illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, gorillas and wild birds, mainly bound for Asian markets.

**Arms trafficking** scored 5.5, reflecting the relatively high levels of smuggling of illicit firearms. According to the Angolan Criminal Investigation Service, trafficking in arms saw a ‘slight increase’ in the second quarter of 2018. The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons SALW into Angola is mainly driven by secessionist demands in Cabinda Province, where arms smuggled from the DRC are said to be a regular occurrence. Scoring a 5, Angola has also been described as a source and destination country for men, women and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour, with the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Cunene, Namibe, Zaire, Lunda Norte and Uige noted as areas where human trafficking activities are most prevalent.

Overall, Angola scores relatively low for drug markets. Of these, **cocaine** scores the highest (4), as the country being a trans-shipment point for South American cocaine to African destinations in Southern and West Africa using sea and air routes. Local consumption is also relatively high, with cocaine being the most widely used illicit drug in Angola after cannabis.

**Criminal Actors**

Angola scores highly for **state-embedded actors** (9.5), **criminal networks** (5.5) and **foreign criminal actors** (5), suggesting that state collusion with criminal actors has a significant to severe impact on society. The expert assessments described an anti-corruption campaign being launched, resulting in the arrest of several government officials for money laundering and criminal association, particularly within the non-renewables sector. In Angola, foreign actors are engaged to a significant degree in several sectors, including the illicit mining industry, wildlife trafficking and human trafficking. No **mafia-style criminal groups** were identified in Angola.
Angola ranks 20th out of the African countries in terms of resilience measures against organised crime. Although the government has made a strong public stance against organised crime, state institutions are considered opaque. The country was described as being highly cooperative in the international arena, as well as having a relatively robust national organised-crime legal framework. Nevertheless, Angola’s judiciary is said to be highly subject to political influence. Similarly, law enforcement agencies continue to improve their capacities, though their service is challenged by issues of corruption, resources and training. Of all resilience areas considered, victim and witness support scores the lowest, at 2, indicating ineffectiveness to respond to organised crime. The country’s repressive measures to silence the media, as well as a decrease in protection measures for victims of human trafficking and migrants were cited, which is reflected in a poor score of 3 for non-state actors.