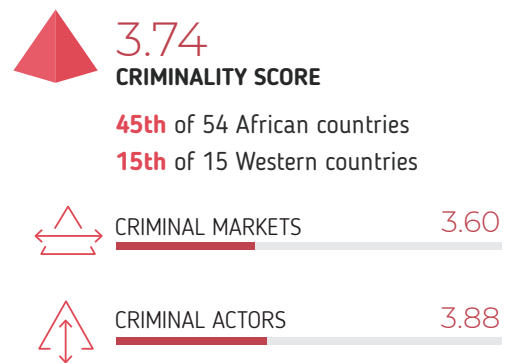
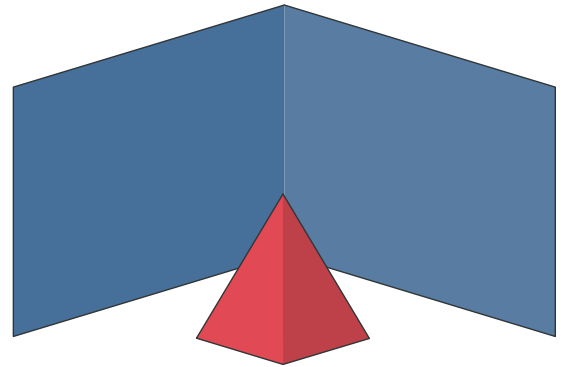


 CABO VERDE

Cabo Verde is ranked 45th in the Index, placing it in the ten countries with the lowest levels of **criminality**, and with low scores in many criminal markets.

The country has a low overall **criminality** score, with most **markets** and **actors** not deemed as exerting a significant negative impact on society. The most significant issues reported are the trafficking, consumption and limited production of narcotics such as **cocaine**, **cannabis** and **synthetic drugs**. Although environmental crimes score relatively well, experts noted with concern growing levels of some **fauna crimes**. The only established criminal actors in Cabo Verde are **foreign actors**, who score 7, owing to their involvement in the drugs trade.

Cabo Verde is ranked as the most resilient nation in Africa, scoring above 6 in all but one of the building blocks of **resilience**. The government has a coherent strategy to combat organised crime, in particular the consumption and trafficking of narcotics, which is a high priority in Cabo Verde. Strong **international cooperation**, freedom of press, and low levels corruption are some of the areas in which Cabo Verde scores highly.



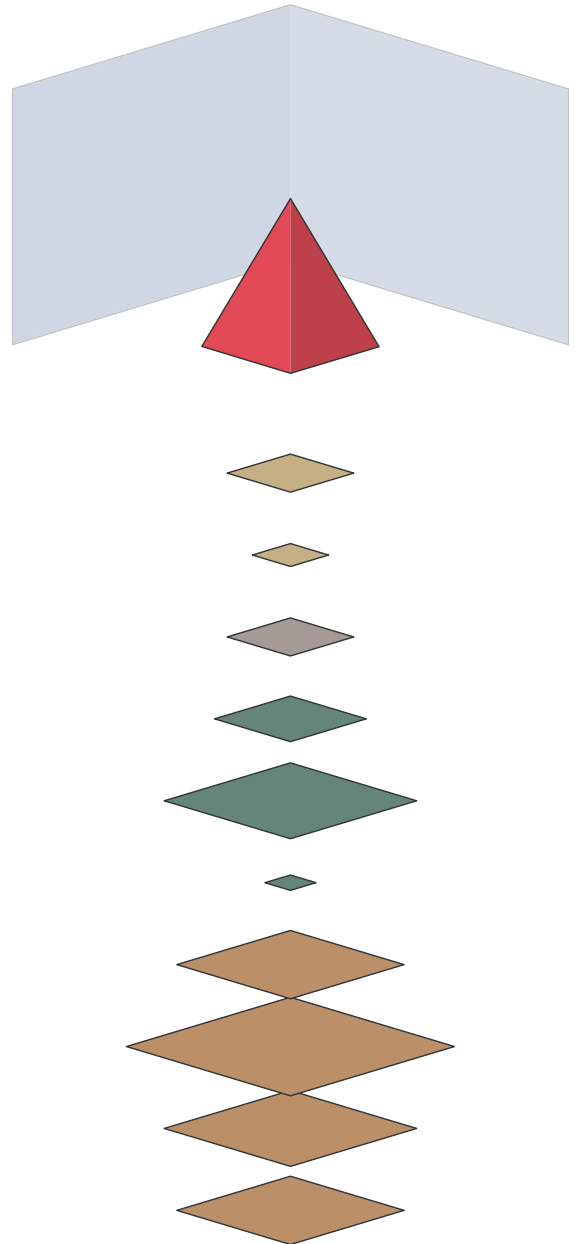
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	3.88
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	3.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	3.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	2.0
FOREIGN ACTORS	7.0



CRIMINAL MARKETS	3.60
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	2.5
HUMAN SMUGGLING	1.5
ARMS TRAFFICKING	2.5
FLORA CRIMES	3.0
FAUNA CRIMES	5.0
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	1.0
HEROIN TRADE	4.5
COCAINE TRADE	6.5
CANNABIS TRADE	5.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	4.5



Criminal Markets

Half of the **criminal markets** included in the Index are assessed to be largely absent from Cabo Verde. The exploitation markets of **human trafficking** and **human smuggling**, and the **arms trafficking** market, as well as the environmental markets of **flora** and **non-renewable-resource crimes** have very little presence in the country, in part due to country's geography and location. At the same time, however, being an island state appears to be a double-edged sword, paving the way for considerable illicit activity with regard to the illicit drugs markets.

The most pervasive criminal market in Cabo Verde is the **cocaine trade**. The country is a transit hub for cocaine from South America en route to European destinations. Numerous large seizures of cocaine have been made in recent years, with trafficking networks attempting to disguise their point of origin by using Cabo Verde as a transit point. The trafficking of cocaine through the country has been facilitated by the fact that only three or four of its islands are adequately policed. Furthermore, the trade is facilitated by a notable repatriated diaspora



population, who provide links to drug-trafficking networks elsewhere. Despite the cocaine trade, domestic consumption of cocaine is still relatively low, although increasing.

Cabo Verde also plays a role, albeit not a major one, in the other three drug markets assessed in the Index. **Cannabis** is the most widely consumed drug in the archipelago. According to local observers, the municipality of Santa Catarina de Santiago is becoming a major centre for production and drug trafficking in Cabo Verde, as well as local consumption. The island state is a significant trans-shipment point for cannabis in transit from domestic African production points to markets in Europe. The islands have seen much activity involving Moroccan cannabis traffickers, with the drug destined for Europe and the Americas.

Cabo Verde also plays a role in the transnational **heroin** and **synthetic drugs**-trafficking markets; it is a transit state in the case of the former and a destination market for the latter. Cabo Verde has experienced growth in seizures of heroin within its waters and is viewed as a convenient way-point for the trans-shipment of illicit drugs to North African departure points for European markets, as well as to European markets directly by sea. Furthermore, methamphetamine use in Cabo Verde has increased dramatically in recent years, in particular on the popular tourist islands of Sal and Boa Vista.

A criminal market in Cabo Verde that has a moderate impact is **fauna crimes**, scoring 5. This market is driven primarily by the illegal poaching of turtles for consumption of their meat, and extensive overfishing and unregulated fishing by foreign vessels in Cabo Verdean territorial waters.

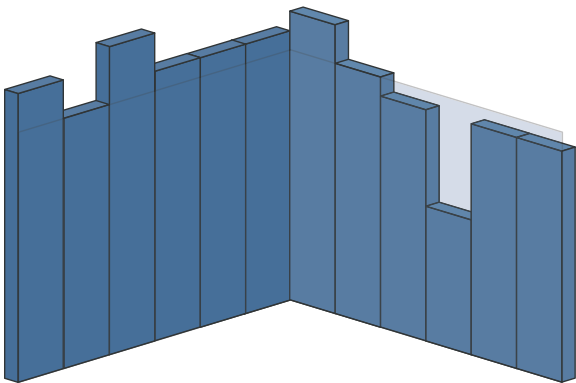
Criminal Actors

By far the most influential **criminal actors** in Cabo Verde are **foreign actors**. Indeed, all of the criminal markets prevalent in the archipelago are driven predominantly by foreign individuals and networks operating in the drug trade and illegal fishing sector. These foreign actors originate from Latin American drug-producing countries, as well as other countries, including European states that are destination points for the drugs.

The remaining three criminal actor types – **mafia-style groups**, **criminal networks** and **state-embedded actors** – have little to no influence in Cabo Verde. Mafia-style groups are very uncommon; however, Cabo Verdean gangs are beginning to emerge, looking to gain control of trafficking routes. Furthermore, the increasing importance of the archipelago as a trans-shipment point in the West African cocaine trade has led to the formation of criminal street gangs on the island, operating with varying levels of organisation.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	7.5
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	6.5
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	8.0
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	7.0
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	7.0
LAW ENFORCEMENT	7.0
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	7.5
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	6.5
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	6.0
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	3.5
PREVENTION	6.0
NON-STATE ACTORS	6.0

Cabo Verde is the most resilient state in Africa, with all but one **resilience** indicator scoring between 6.5 and 8. The government is widely recognised as having taken serious and appropriate steps to tackle the challenge of drug trafficking, and has received considerable support from the international community to strengthen its capacity for interdiction and investigation. Cabo Verde is a politically stable state, a characteristic that is underpinned by strong democratic institutions and decent protection of human rights and civic freedoms.

While the country does not have a single or independent anti-corruption authority, several policy measures have been implemented, such as strengthening the role of the Court of Auditors. As a consequence, corruption levels in Cabo Verde are fairly low. The country is very reliant on its **international cooperation** with other partners (including Portugal, Spain, the UK and the US), to strengthen its capacity to monitor the country's international waters and combat drug trafficking. The country has ratified all but one of the international treaties pertaining to organised crime.

The criminal-justice system performs extremely well in Cabo Verde, especially in comparison to the African

context in general. The country has a robust anti-drug **legislative framework**, and the **judiciary** and **law-enforcement** authorities have shown increasing capacity to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute and sentence illicit trafficking and serious cases of organised crime. However, effective access to justice and the protection of citizens' legal rights remains a challenge, particularly with respect to vulnerable individuals, including women and youth. Furthermore, many of the archipelago state's islands do not have a police presence, which facilitates the drug trade, although, generally, policing is robust.

Where there is a major deficiency in Cabo Verde is with respect to **victim and witness support**, which is by far the lowest-scoring indicator at 3.5. There is no witness protection scheme in place in the country and there are no shelters or services specifically for trafficking victims. Nevertheless, the government has made significant efforts to improve these services. In 2018, the Ministry of Justice and Labour of Cabo Verde, in partnership with UNODC, launched the three-year National Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, focusing on both the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, and protection of and assistance to victims.

