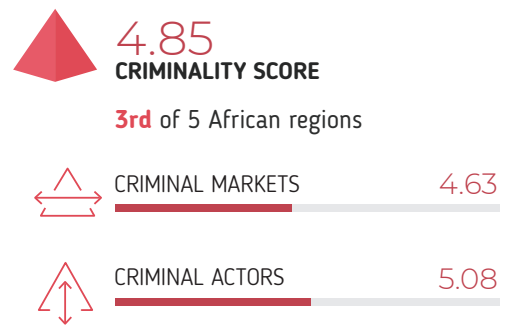
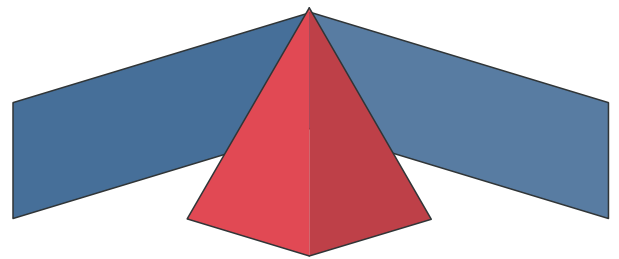


CENTRAL AFRICA

Central Africa's **criminality** score falls below the continental average, placing it third in the regional ranking.

In line with other regions, **criminal actors** marginally drive up the **criminality** average for Central Africa, with an average score of 5.08, compared to its **criminal markets** average score of 4.63. When looking at the criminality components individually, both criminal markets and actors fall below the continental averages (4.68 and 5.25, respectively), suggesting perhaps a more limited distribution of criminality typologies than experienced in other regions. In the context of prolonged conflict in the region and the extensive biodiversity that occurs in many countries in Central Africa, arms trafficking and the environmental markets are far more prevalent than are the drug economies. While the region's average **criminal actors** score places this subcomponent in the middle of the regional ranking, **state-embedded actors** have the highest average score in Central Africa than in any other region on the continent.

Central Africa is by some distance the lowest-scoring region in Africa for resilience, with an average score of 2.95. While the region does not perform well on any **resilience** indicator, collectively it falls particularly short with regard to social protection measures, such as **victim and witness support** and prevention measures.



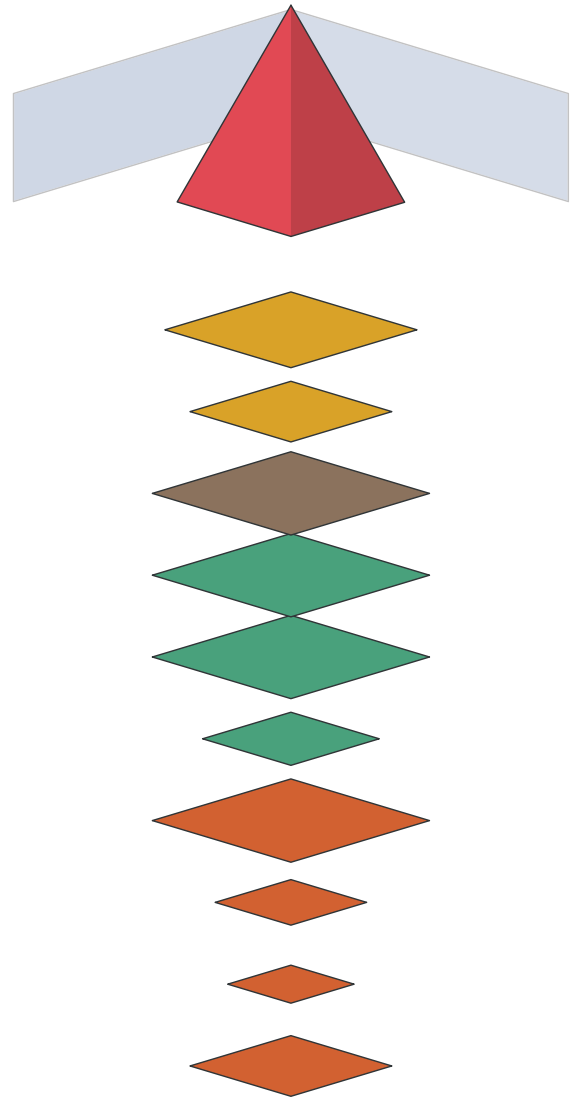
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	5.08
MAFIA-STYLE GROUPS	3.45
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	5.09
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	7.09
FOREIGN ACTORS	4.68



CRIMINAL MARKETS	4.63
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	5.41
HUMAN SMUGGLING	4.27
ARMS TRAFFICKING	5.91
FLORA CRIMES	5.68
FAUNA CRIMES	5.59
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	3.77
HEROIN TRADE	5.64
COCAINE TRADE	3.09
CANNABIS TRADE	2.55
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	4.36



Criminal Markets

Arms trafficking can be singled out as the most pervasive of the region's criminal markets, with an average of 5.91. Experts noted a high demand for, and illicit proliferation of, small arms and light weapons resulting from separatist insurgencies and other subregional conflicts. Countries that were assessed as stable and conflict-free have nevertheless been exposed to the illicit trade in weapons from neighbouring countries in conflict, driving up the regional average.

Flora crimes (5.68), **non-renewable resource crimes** (5.64) and **fauna crimes** (5.59) were identified as the second, third and fourth most prominent criminal markets in Central Africa. These markets were noted as strongly linked to armed actors as well as to state officials and a significant foreign criminal presence. Illicit logging was often noted as resulting in severe deforestation in a number of countries, predominantly those in the Congo Basin region, with timber bound for neighbouring and Asian markets.¹

¹ ENACT, *Razing Africa: Combatting criminal consortia in the logging sector*, September 2018.



In terms of wildlife, the region was described by experts as a source and transit zone for a number of endangered species, including elephants, birds, fish and reptiles. Meanwhile, poaching has resulted in a number of species' extinction (particularly rhinos in certain countries). Poaching activities are linked to a range of actors, and animal parts are supplied for bushmeat and traditional medicine.

Criminal Actors

Central Africa's average **criminal actors** score places them in the middle of the regional ranking for this subcomponent. Notably, **state-embedded actors** averaged 7.09, the highest regional average in Africa, driven by extremely high scores in Equatorial Guinea, Angola and Burundi. The high regional average for **state-embedded actors** is balanced out by the region's scores for **criminal networks** and **foreign actors**, which are the

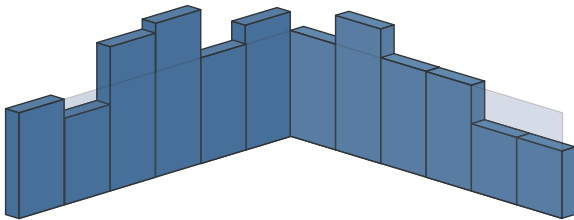
Finally, the region is a major producer of minerals and natural resources, from oil to diamonds. This market was noted for the wide range of criminal actors involved, from state actors to criminal and foreign networks.

second-lowest-scoring **criminal actor**-types of the five regions in Africa.

Although **mafia-style groups** show minimal influence (in line with continental trends), with a regional average of 3.45, the region's average score is the second-highest in Africa, driven by a number of armed militia groups operating in the region.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	2.95
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	2.32
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	3.82
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	4.18
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	2.82
LAW ENFORCEMENT	3.27
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	2.77
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	3.73
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	2.91
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	2.77
PREVENTION	1.86
NON-STATE ACTORS	1.95

Perhaps the most notable trend in Central Africa is the regional fragility or outright absence of resilience measures to organised crime. The region's average **resilience** score of 2.95 is the lowest of all African regions and Central Africa has the lowest regional averages for every resilience indicator, with the exception of **victim and witness support**, for which East Africa ranks bottom.

Central Africa's average for **victim and witness support** is the lowest average of all resilience indicators for the region. As a whole, the region performs similarly poorly with regard

to **prevention** (1.95), **government transparency and accountability** (2.32) and **non-state actors** (2.77).

The region's best performance is recorded for **national policies and laws** (4.18), with notable efforts by countries to develop legislation surrounding certain markets, notably fauna crime. **International cooperation** (3.82) and **territorial integrity** (3.73) make up the top three highest indicator averages for Central Africa. However, as noted above, even the highest-scoring indicators in the region record lower average scores than all other regions in Africa.

