

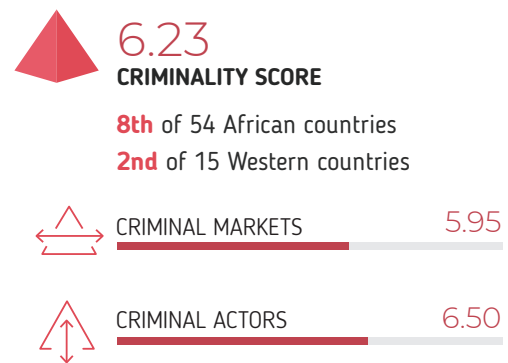
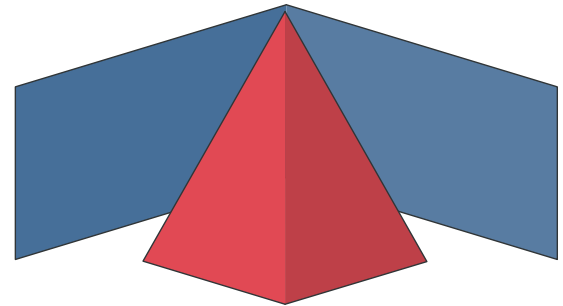
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire has a high level of **criminality**, ranking 8th in Africa.

Although most African countries' **criminality** score is driven predominantly by the strength and influence of **criminal actors**, Côte d'Ivoire is an obvious exception, in that it also hosts a plethora of pervasive **criminal markets** that have a significant negative impact on the country's society and state structures. In particular, the country's environmental-crime markets exert a significant, and growing, negative influence on nearly all parts of society. Concerns surround illegal logging and criminalised control of the country's gold mines (leading to illegal taxation), as well as **human smuggling** and **human trafficking** for labour.

The nation is both a transit and origin country for the trafficking of ivory by criminal gangs, and plays a major role in the illegal ape and birds' markets; corruption is linked to these networking routes and activities. Due to the country's recent turbulence, it has experienced an increase in the flow of arms, while there are also concerns that the state's fragility will lead to large-scale trafficking of illicit substances. In addition to criminal gangs that operate in the country, and corruption within the government, **foreign criminal actors** are also thought to have a growing detrimental impact on society.

In terms of **resilience**, Cote d'Ivoire ranks 18th in Africa. This is due to relatively high levels of **international cooperation**, a strong **judicial system** and a robust **political leadership** in the fight against organised crime. However, the country's porous borders and levels of corruption need to be addressed to enhance its ability to combat organised crime effectively.



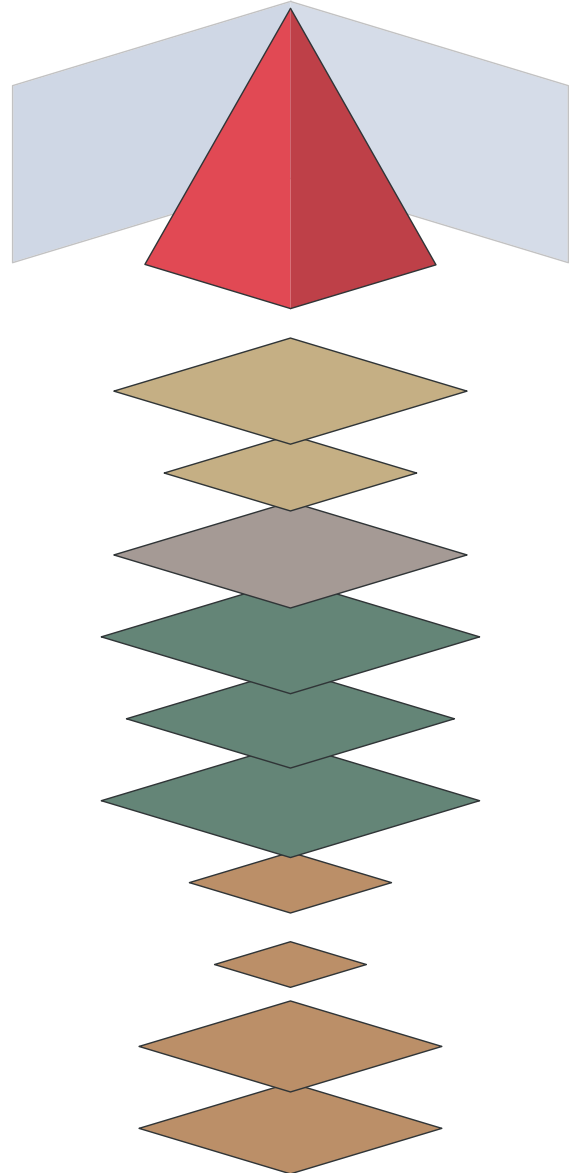
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	6.50
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	3.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	7.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	8.0
FOREIGN ACTORS	7.5



CRIMINAL MARKETS	5.95
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	7.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	5.0
ARMS TRAFFICKING	7.0
FLORA CRIMES	7.5
FAUNA CRIMES	6.5
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	7.5
HEROIN TRADE	4.0
COCAINE TRADE	3.0
CANNABIS TRADE	6.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	6.0



Criminal Markets

Côte d'Ivoire has many **criminal markets** that are established and influential, the most pervasive being illicit **flora** and **non-renewable-resource** markets. The country has one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa, and although most of the forest loss is a result of farming practices, there is substantial deforestation caused by illegal logging perpetrated by criminal networks. Furthermore, in recent years, timber has been used as an obfuscation method for illicit wildlife trafficking out of the country's maritime ports, such as Abidjan.

Gold is one of the main resources found in the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, and much of it is mined illegally. The exploitation is conducted by farmers. Leaders of a rebellion in the country have seized control of mines, generating tens of millions of dollars a year. These actors engage in illegal taxation, smuggling and racketeering. Illegal mining provides a livelihood for many, including former combatants and government officials. Although illicit gold mining occurs in large parts of the country, violence associated with it appears to be minimal.



The other environmental market impacting Côte d'Ivoire, namely **fauna-related crimes**, registers a score of 6.5, largely down to illicit trade in ivory and pangolins. Côte d'Ivoire is a major origin and transit country for a number of wildlife products, and such trade is conducted by criminal networks with considerable involvement of state-embedded actors.

Côte d'Ivoire is a source, transit and destination country for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children. **Human trafficking** within the country's borders is more prevalent, with victims primarily trafficked from the north of the country to the more economically prosperous south. However, there are also many pull factors that attract migrants into Côte d'Ivoire, which in many cases leads to exploitation. Boys from neighbouring countries are subjected to forced labour in the agriculture sector, where they work on cocoa, coffee, pineapple and rubber plantations, in the mining sector and in construction. Girls and women recruited from nearby states are compelled work as domestic servants.

Criminal Actors

In Côte d'Ivoire there are a wide range of influential **criminal actors** driving the country's illicit economies. **State-embedded actors** receive the highest score of the

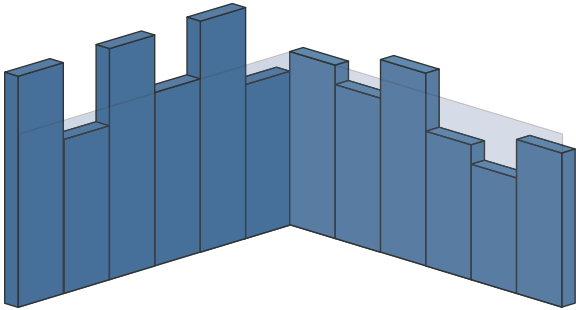
four actor types, reflecting deep-rooted corruption in the authorities. Many companies cite corruption as the major obstacle to investment in Côte d'Ivoire. It has the greatest impact on judicial proceedings, contract awards, customs and tax issues. Businesses report encountering corruption at every level of the civil service, with some judges reportedly having based their decisions on bribes.

Criminal actors in Côte d'Ivoire operate primarily as part of **criminal networks**. Many local criminal networks are involved in illegal gold mining, drug trafficking, smuggling, contraband sales, trafficking of endangered animal species and money laundering. Most are generally low-level couriers serving criminal and trafficking networks based in neighbouring and countries further afield. Most of the illicit economies prevalent in Côte d'Ivoire are facilitated in some way by **foreign actors**, with whom domestic criminal networks have extensive connections. Networks in Latin America play a major role in drug trafficking through the country, while fauna crimes are often committed with the help of criminal actors from Asia, who act as an interface between the country of origin and the end markets.

Mafia-style groups are also present in Côte d'Ivoire, some of which use the same names as their Italian counterparts, controlling territory. These armed groups engage predominantly in trafficking of children. There is strong likelihood that such groups will expand their influence.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	6.0
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	4.0
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	6.0
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	4.5
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	6.0
LAW ENFORCEMENT	4.0
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	4.5
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	4.0
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	5.0
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	3.5
PREVENTION	3.0
NON-STATE ACTORS	4.0

Although Côte d'Ivoire has markedly high levels of criminality, at the same time its **resilience** to organised crime is better than that of most African nations, ranking 18th on the continent. The **resilience** indicator scores have a narrow range of between 3 and 6, which suggests that the country has a decent foundation on which to build. There has been steady improvement in governance under President Alassane Ouattara, which is reflected in improved scores on international governance and corruption perception indices. Yet, although the government has made verbal commitments to addressing corruption, and has established a new coordinating institution, the Haute Autorité pour la Bonne Gouvernance (Authority for Good Governance), the effectiveness and sincerity of the government's anti-corruption efforts are still to be proven. Government systems have been digitalised, which has dramatically increased **transparency and accountability** across government.

The country's levels of **international cooperation** are also relatively high, and Côte d'Ivoire has ratified all of the relevant international treaties and conventions relating to organised crime. Furthermore, the country works in close cooperation with numerous international organisations in the fight against organised crime. It is a member of the regional ECOWAS extradition conventions and maintains other bilateral treaties with neighbouring countries and with France. But although Côte d'Ivoire has the necessary legal and institutional structures to combat organized crime, the engagement of the government, in terms of

policy, is more theoretical than practical. The political will and the effective enforcement of existing policies and laws remains a challenge.

Legal and institutional structures have been strengthened with assistance from international organisations. Prison guards, however, have been implicated in organised crime and intimidation tactics are reported to be used against judges. Overall, there is significant scope for improvement with regard to **law enforcement** in the country. Many parts of Côte d'Ivoire are insecure, particularly around the borders, as well as pockets in the economic capital of Abidjan, but efforts are being made with international organisations and foreign governments to help secure and better manage these problem areas.

Finally, as is the pattern across much of Africa, Côte d'Ivoire has major deficiencies in its social protection measures. While efforts are being made to improve **support** provided to victims of organised crime, corruption and constrained resources remain considerable impediments. The lasting effects of the civil conflict and a formerly restrictive political climate are evident in the relative weakness of the civil society sector in Côte d'Ivoire today. Research indicates that there is almost no tradition of civil society in the country, and what exists has been weakened owing to conflict and instability. The relationship between the state and **non-state actors** remains weak and unconstructive.

