

 EQUATORIAL GUINEA

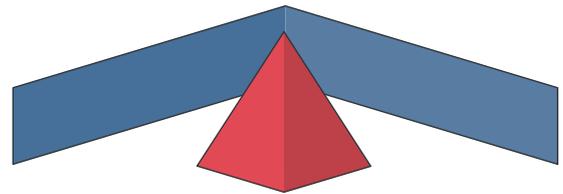
Equatorial Guinea ranks 49th in the Index and 9th out of the 11 countries in Central Africa, suggesting that it has some of the lowest overall **criminality** levels on the continent.

The country's scores for **criminal markets** and **criminal actors** are both relatively and equally low in comparison to other African countries, suggesting neither component is disproportionately driving the **criminality** score.

Most criminal markets are considered as either non-existent or having little influence on society. However, **flora crimes** in Equatorial Guinea have a score of 9, indicating a severe negative influence on nearly all parts of society – largely due to unsustainable logging practices, of which 100% is thought to be illegal. Moreover, illegal oil-related activities are common, leading **non-renewable-resource crimes** to be scored at 6.

There is a large disparity in the influence of different **criminal actors** in Equatorial Guinea. **State-embedded actors** are by far the most influential, scoring 9.

Under **resilience**, in 48th place Equatorial Guinea ranks as one of Africa's least-resilient states, with only two **resilience** indicators exceeding a score of 2. High levels of government involvement in criminal activity, and the profits the government makes from these illicit markets, mean there is little incentive for the state apparatus to combat organised crime in the country.



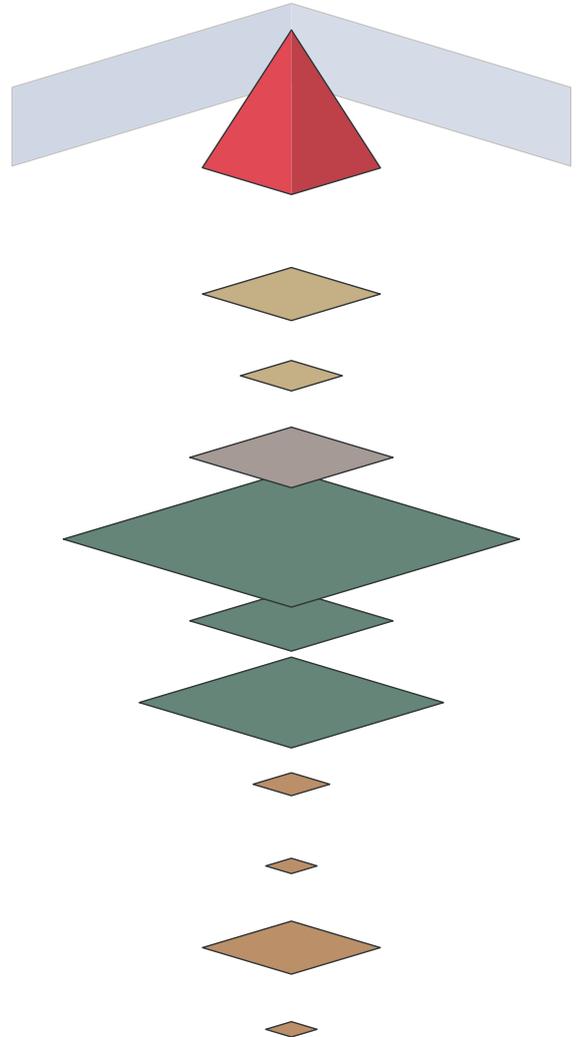
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	3.50
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	1.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	2.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	9.0
FOREIGN ACTORS	1.5



CRIMINAL MARKETS	3.55
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	3.5
HUMAN SMUGGLING	2.0
ARMS TRAFFICKING	4.0
FLORA CRIMES	9.0
FAUNA CRIMES	4.0
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	6.0
HEROIN TRADE	1.5
COCAINE TRADE	1.0
CANNABIS TRADE	3.5
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	1.0



Criminal Markets

The prevalence of criminal markets in Equatorial Guinea vary significantly. While the majority of illicit economies in the country score below 5, the illicit trade in flora is distinctly more pervasive and is described as exerting severe negative influence on society. Indeed, the country's score of 9 for **flora crimes** is the highest score recorded by any country in Africa. Much of Equatorial Guinea is covered by dense tropical rainforest that has long been exploited by the lumber industry. The rate of deforestation

is among the highest in Africa and the country has lost more than half of its national forest in past 10-15 years. In 2013, it was estimated that 100% of logging was illicit. Corruption in the timber sector is described as reaching up to the highest levels of the state, primarily in the form of fraudulently awarded concessions and failure to provide proper oversight of, or impose penalties on, industry actors.



The illicit trade in **non-renewable resources** is described as exerting a significant influence on Equatoguinean society. Since the 1990s, Equatorial Guinea has become the third-largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa. Illegal oil-related activities are described as being mainly committed by the those within the state apparatus, rather than by criminal groups. Despite the country's economic windfall from oil production, which has resulted in a massive increase in government revenues, improvements in the population's living standards have been slow to develop and channels for local people to voice their concerns are limited.

Equatorial Guinea is identified as a transit zone for the illicit movement of arms. Although the country is not known to host organised criminal groups involved in **arms trafficking**, smugglers do exist. Because the illicit movement of arms is linked to other forms of organised crime – including piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, drug trafficking and human

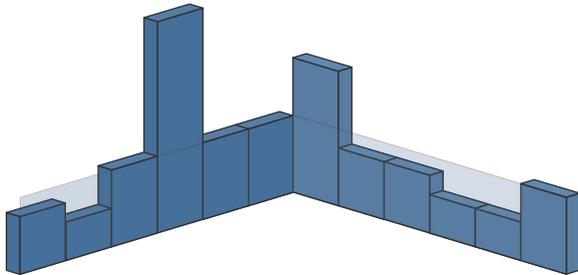
trafficking – a large number of weapons that enter West Africa illegally are smuggled through Equatorial Guinea. The criminal market is therefore identified as having a moderate influence in the country.

Criminal Actors

State-embedded actors are the criminal actors with the most influence in organised crime in Equatorial Guinea, scoring 9 in the Index, one of the highest scores in Africa for this criminal actor type. They are almost ubiquitous in Equatorial Guinea, with substantial allegations that high-level officials profit from corrupt practices at the expense of the population, most notably in the timber and oil industries. Their level of influence is so pervasive that all other **criminal actor** types in Equatorial Guinea are identified as either non-existent or minimal.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	1.5
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	1.0
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	2.0
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	5.5
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	2.0
LAW ENFORCEMENT	2.0
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	3.5
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	1.5
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	1.5
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	1.0
PREVENTION	1.0
NON-STATE ACTORS	2.0

Equatorial Guinea ranks 48th for **resilience**, placing it among the least-resilient countries in Africa. Almost all **resilience** indicators score below 5, indicating that most resilience measures are either non-existent or extremely ineffective. The state is described as a kleptocracy and a frequent abuser of human rights.

Little organised crime activity occurs without links to the state apparatus. Diversion of public funds and corruption are widespread in both commerce and government, particularly with regards to the use of proceeds from the extractive industries, including oil, gas and timber, the most likely sources of laundered funds. Although there is no significant market for smuggled goods, smuggling for personal use or consumption is endemic. The government is widely criticised for its lack of **transparency and accountability**, scoring 1 in the Index.

Standards for **international cooperation** exist in Equatorial Guinea, although notable gaps are present. For example, the country is a member of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. In 2011, along with seven other Central African countries, Equatorial Guinea signed an Action Plan to strengthen enforcement of national wildlife laws and cooperate more effectively to address large-scale poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in the region. However, no action has been taken to enforce the agreement.

Most notably, Equatorial Guinea is not a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, nor a party to the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

Although several of the country's laws focus on specific types of organised criminal activities, enforcement is inadequate.

Law enforcement agencies in Equatorial Guinea have a limited presence in major cities and rural areas and are said to often engage in extortion. National security forces are accused of engaging in torture and other forms of violence with impunity. The **judicial system** is not independent, and no specialised judicial units aimed at countering organised crime have been identified. The scarce judicial capacity is due to the pervasiveness of corruption, which involves institutions at all levels. For example, since the country's Law on the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons was passed in 2004, no convictions or prosecutions have been reported.

There are significant inadequacies in the country's **anti-money laundering** capacity and ability to regulate the economy, predominately because of widespread corruption. Although Equatorial Guinea is a member of the Task Force against Money Laundering in Central Africa, the country has not been evaluated to assess its compliance with Financial Action Task Force recommendations. Despite its natural resource wealth, Equatorial Guinea has failed to provide crucial public services and does not produce reliable data on economic rights.

Lastly, Equatorial Guinea performs very poorly on social protection indicators of resilience, namely **prevention** measures and **support for victims and witnesses** of organised crime. The state does not identify or refer victims to protective services. It does not have formal procedures to do so and there is a lack of effort to implement any form of prevention. Moreover, the capabilities of **non-state actors**, such as civil society and the media, are severely restricted.

