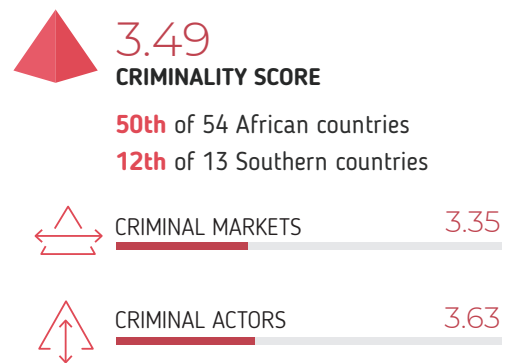
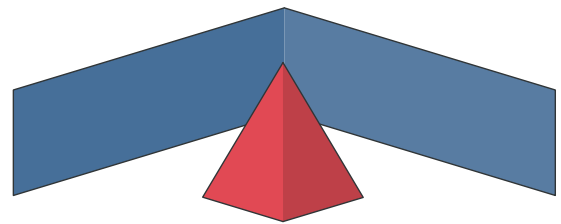


 **ESWATINI**

eSwatini ranks 50th in Africa for **criminality**, indicating that **criminal actors** and **markets** in the country are generally not as prevalent as in other African states.

There are concerns over **human trafficking** and **arms trafficking**, but eSwatini is primarily a transit country for these markets, especially to South Africa. In terms of drug markets, experts note the significant influence of the **cannabis trade** as having a negative impact on society. There are also concerns over the trafficking of **heroin** and **cocaine** in eSwatini.

Violent crime is an area of concern in the country. Most criminal activity is perpetrated by small gangs with links to criminal organisations in South Africa and Mozambique. In terms of **resilience**, eSwatini is ranked 37th, despite its progress in the development of **national policies and laws** and **international cooperation**. The country is still facing severe challenges with regard to their judicial system and social protection measures. Experts consider other areas, such as the freedom in the **economic regulatory environment** and capacity of **law enforcement**, to be non-effective or extremely ineffective. Consequently, the country is ill equipped to deal with organised crime.



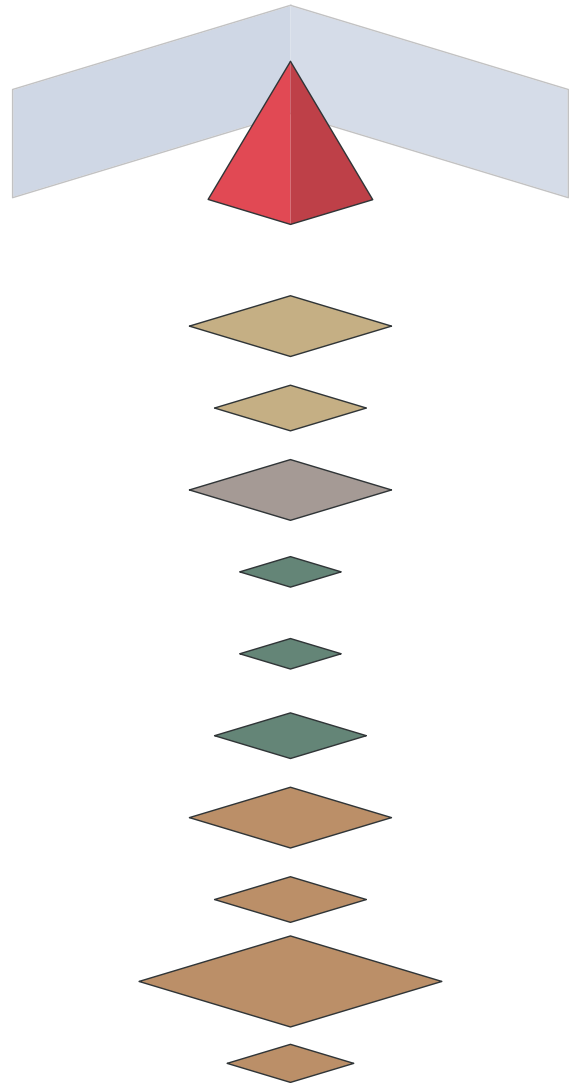
# CRIMINALITY SCORE



<b>CRIMINAL ACTORS</b>	<b>3.63</b>
<b>MAFIA STYLE GROUPS</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>CRIMINAL NETWORKS</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>FOREIGN ACTORS</b>	<b>4.0</b>



<b>CRIMINAL MARKETS</b>	<b>3.35</b>
<b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>HUMAN SMUGGLING</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>ARMS TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>FLORA CRIMES</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>FAUNA CRIMES</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>HEROIN TRADE</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>COCAINE TRADE</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>CANNABIS TRADE</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE</b>	<b>2.5</b>



## Criminal Markets

The highest-scoring criminal market in eSwatini is the **cannabis trade**, with a score of 6. This is because eSwatini is a major grower of cannabis, which is highly sought after in markets abroad. Cannabis is described as so ubiquitous that the government is considering legalising its production for medical use. The legalisation of cannabis in neighbouring countries means there are significant market opportunities for the expansion of this illicit market. With regards to

other drug markets, the country provides important transit routes for **heroin** and **cocaine** trafficked into South Africa, due to insufficient border control. This presents a low risk for traffickers.

Environmental crime markets overall are described to have little influence on society due to strict conservation strategies. No major **flora crimes** are reported. In terms of **fauna crimes**, while there are trafficking routes for



pangolins and reports of poaching, these are considered to have little influence on society. In relation to **non-renewable-resource crimes**, eSwatini is reportedly a transit country for illegal gold.

**Human trafficking** and **arms trafficking** are considered to have a moderate influence on society. eSwatini is a transit country for victims of human trafficking. There appears to be a risk of human exploitation due to the prevalence of poverty and the country's proximity to more affluent neighbouring countries. In terms of arms trafficking, while the total number of guns in the country has generally decreased, levels of unlicensed gun ownership are reported to be high.

## Criminal Actors

There is very little evidence on the impact of **mafia-style groups** and **state-embedded actors** in eSwatini. There are reports of corruption within the government. However,

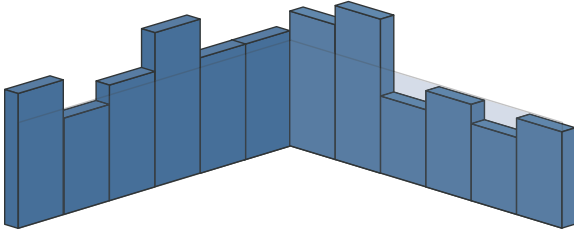
there is no concrete evidence to suggest that this is a current concern, which is reflected in the low score attributed by experts.

**Foreign actors** are also not widely reported on in the country, though there have been reports of the involvement of Nigerian syndicates in the cannabis trade. Also, South African criminals have been known to make regular trips into eSwatini, but this is speculative.

Experts attribute a score of 5.5 to national **criminal networks**, indicating their significantly negative impact on society. Criminal networks are known to engage in illicit activities from armed robbery to hijacking and smuggling. They are said to have links with larger criminal organisations in South Africa and Mozambique.



# RESILIENCE SCORE



<u>POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE</u>	<b>3.5</b>
<u>GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</u>	<b>2.5</b>
<u>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</u>	<b>3.0</b>
<u>NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS</u>	<b>4.0</b>
<u>JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION</u>	<b>3.0</b>
<u>LAW ENFORCEMENT</u>	<b>3.0</b>
<u>TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</u>	<b>3.5</b>
<u>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING</u>	<b>4.0</b>
<u>ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT</u>	<b>2.0</b>
<u>VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT</u>	<b>2.5</b>
<u>PREVENTION</u>	<b>2.0</b>
<u>NON-STATE ACTORS</u>	<b>2.5</b>

Experts generally consider eSwatini to exhibit extremely ineffective **resilience** to organised crime across multiple areas, ranking it 37th in Africa. The monarchy wields an inordinate amount of power and political parties are banned. The king is said to undermine government, often with the support of Swazi elites. This has led to under-resourced state services, including the police. **Prevention** and **law enforcement** capacity against organised crime are described as severely ineffective.

With regard to **national policies and laws**, eSwatini has four laws specifically on organised crime. It has ratified eight out of the ten international treaties directly concerning organised crime, which experts attribute to be moderately effective, though room for improvement exists. Government funds are reported to be mismanaged and spending is described as lavish. Experts suggest these factors could make crime attractive to citizens of eSwatini.

