Namibia ranks 44th in the Index, scoring well in terms of criminality.

Experts do not score any criminal markets or criminal actors above 6. Illicit environmental markets are viewed as the most significant, due notably to the smuggling of timber (flora crimes), ivory and rhino horn (fauna crimes) and diamonds (non-renewable-resource crimes). Foreign actors are judged to have the greatest influence, scoring 6, largely because of their role in the illicit fauna and flora trades.

Namibia performs relatively well on resilience, ranking 13th in Africa, with the majority of indicators recording scores of between 4.5 and 6.5. International cooperation, national policies and laws against organised crime, and the economic regulatory environment are all deemed to be effective. But experts note insufficient levels of funding to various institutions and government bodies, corruption and porous borders as areas of concern.

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**3.81**

**CRIMINALITY SCORE**

- 44th of 54 African countries
- 9th of 13 Southern countries

**5.04**

**STATE RESILIENCE SCORE**

- 13th of 54 African countries
- 5th of 13 Southern countries
**Criminal Markets**

Namibia scores fairly well in relation to criminal markets. Most scores are below 4, suggesting only a limited negative influence on society.

The main criminal markets are in the environmental sector, all scoring between 4.5 and 6. In relation to flora crimes, the illegal logging industry is significant and Namibia is also a transit country for timber from Africa destined for Asia. The market for exotic hardwoods is one of the largest of all illegal commercial enterprises in the country, and runs in parallel to legal markets for timber and charcoal. It scores 6, the highest score of any of the country’s criminal markets.

Namibia also has a large market for ivory, rhino horn and pangolins for sale outside Africa. Reports have linked criminal syndicates with poaching and wildlife trafficking. However, fauna crimes score 5.5, reflecting a decrease in poaching.
The market for illicit diamonds and gemstones in Namibia is considerable. An estimated 80% of small-scale mining is illegal. Experts also report illicit trading of fuel as an increasing concern. Non-renewable-resource crimes score 4.5, suggesting a moderately negative influence on society, given the relatively small scale of this market.

The markets for illicit narcotics in Namibia all score between 2 and 3, suggesting a very limited influence. Namibia is a trans-shipment country for cocaine, heroin and cannabis, but the volumes trafficked are on a minimal scale. Similarly, although a domestic market exists for cannabis, cocaine and synthetic drugs, the incidence of illegal narcotics use in Namibia is low, explaining the low scores experts attribute to the drug trades.

Human trafficking, human smuggling and arms trafficking are also judged to be minor issues in Namibia, with no market exceeding a score of 3. The human trafficking market is present but not ubiquitous, with children the most at risk. The market is not particularly organised.

The porous border between Namibia and Botswana enables guns to flow in and out. But Namibia is only a minor hub for arms trafficking. Local gun ownership is also moderate, contributing to the low score of 3.

Criminal Actors

The criminal actors with the most influence are foreign actors, scoring 6. Gangs from neighbouring countries, but also from Asia, are established in Namibia. They are reportedly involved in numerous criminal markets, including the illicit trade in exotic hardwoods and animal parts.

Criminal networks score 4.5, suggesting they exert a moderately negative influence on society. Organised syndicates are involved in the most significant illicit trades, particularly in relation to wildlife crimes, and human smuggling and trafficking.

State-embedded actors are not judged to have a significantly negative influence on society, scoring only 3.5. Although their active involvement in organised crime is minimal, corruption – especially among border officials – allows contraband to pass in and out of the country. Although there is little evidence of the presence of mafia-style groups in Namibia, gangs are reported in prisons.
Namibia records moderate scores for resilience, with all areas scoring between 3 and 6.5, culminating in an overall resilience ranking of 13th. The country is noted as having a strong economic regulatory capacity, a large number of active civil society organisations and coherent laws. Nevertheless, experts are concerned by the absence of major successes in crime prevention, corruption in the judicial system and law enforcement, and the porosity of Namibia’s borders. The most significant problem experts highlight is insufficient resources and available funding, which hinder the government’s ability to combat organised crime.