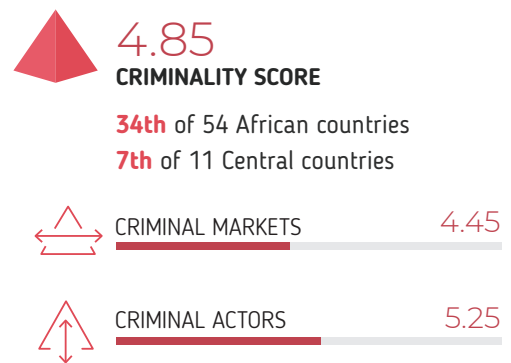
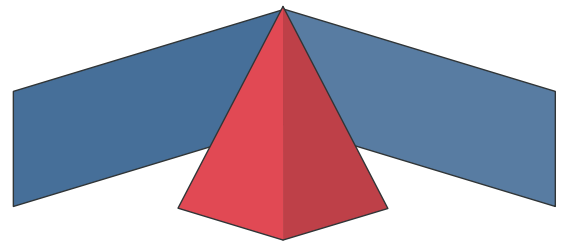


REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Republic of Congo ranks 29th in the Index, with a **criminality** score in line with the African average.

Consistent with continental trends, the **criminal actors** score drives up the overall **criminality** score more than its **criminal markets** score. The illicit **flora** and **fauna** markets, particularly the illegal logging of timber, as well as poaching for bushmeat and ivory, are among the country's primary illicit economies, scoring 8 and 7, respectively. Additionally, because of cocaine transiting the country and the involvement of high-ranking officials in the **cocaine trade**, the cocaine market was assessed as having a moderately negative influence on society. The country scores moderately for **human smuggling**, **human trafficking** and **arms trafficking**, all scoring 4. In line with regional trends, **state-embedded actors** are the most pervasive criminal actor type in the country, scoring 8, largely because of endemic corruption, which enables criminal networks to develop.

In terms of **resilience**, the Republic of Congo scored relatively poorly, with no score exceeding 4, and it ranks 36th in Africa. Porous borders, corruption that is present at the highest levels of government, and insufficient victim and witness support are among the contributors to the country's low levels of resilience.



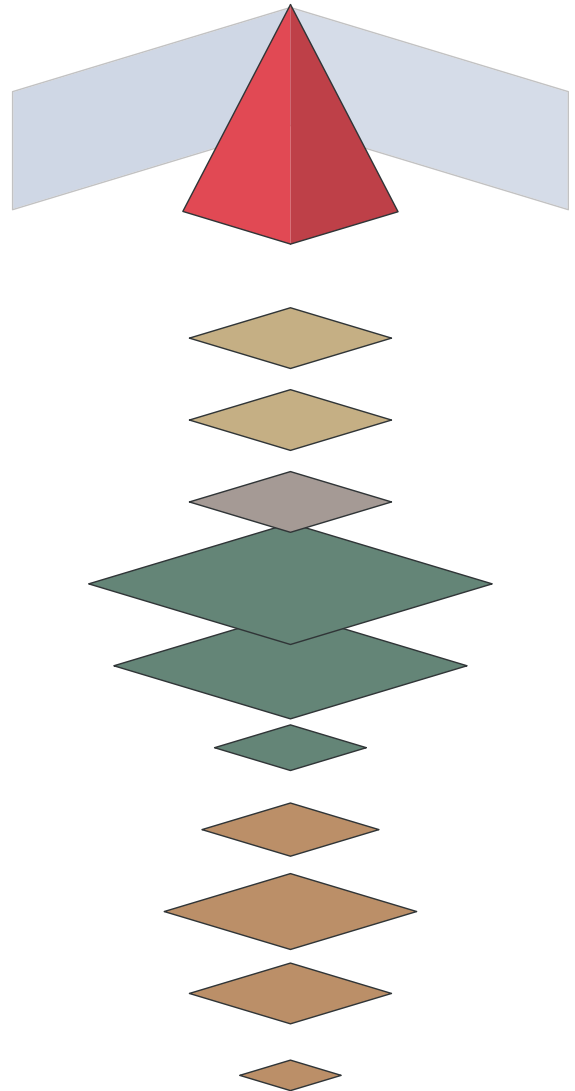
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	5.25
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	3.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	6.0
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	8.0
FOREIGN ACTORS	4.0



CRIMINAL MARKETS	4.45
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	4.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	4.0
ARMS TRAFFICKING	4.0
FLORA CRIMES	8.0
FAUNA CRIMES	7.0
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	3.0
HEROIN TRADE	3.5
COCAINE TRADE	5.0
CANNABIS TRADE	4.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	2.0



Criminal Markets

Criminal markets are prevalent in the Republic of Congo in multiple forms. Environmental crimes, particularly illicit trade in **flora** and **fauna**, were identified as having a significant to severe impact. Illegality in the country's logging industry is estimated to affect approximately 70% of all production, including small-scale, artisanal logging for domestic markets and industrial-scale logging by concessionaires producing timber for export.

In terms of **fauna crimes**, poaching in protected areas is motivated by bushmeat consumption and ivory trafficking. According to parks authorities' estimates, about 40 000 tonnes of bushmeat was produced from animal poaching in 2018. The country is a source of a number of protected species, including pangolins and parrots. Poachers are regularly arrested by parks authorities and the police.



Among the Republic of Congo's drug markets, the **cocaine trade** was identified as the most prevalent, scoring 5 – signifying the market's moderate influence on society. The country has recently been integrated into an international cocaine route as a transit country for cocaine bound for Europe or into Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The opening of a flight between South America and the port city of Pointe-Noire, as well as the Republic of Congo's budget crisis following a drop in oil prices, has contributed to the country's increased role in the cocaine trade.

Although less impactful than the country's cocaine trade, **human trafficking, human smuggling and arms trafficking** were also identified as exerting a moderate negative influence, all scoring 4. The Republic of Congo is both a source and destination country for victims of human trafficking, with most victims originating from Benin and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Internal trafficking in the country typically involves recruitment of victims from rural areas for exploitation in the country's cities. Victims are frequently subjected to domestic servitude and market vending.

Arms trafficking was rife during the country's civil war, with a clandestine arms trade existing between the

Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola. Today, residual weaponry remains, and arms trafficking is primarily driven by the poaching of wildlife.

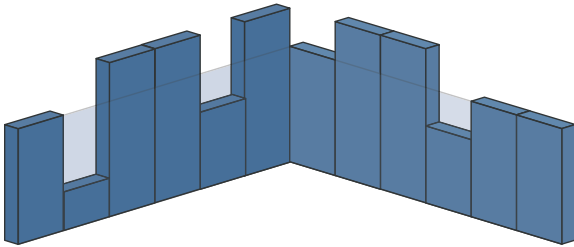
Criminal Actors

In line with regional trends, the **criminal actor** type exerting most influence in the organised-crime landscape in the Republic of Congo is **state-embedded actors**, scoring 8 in the Index. Public-sector corruption is rife, particularly in the oil and timber sectors, and some members of the country's security forces have been involved in criminal activities, such as drug and wildlife trafficking.

Criminal networks are known to operate in the Republic of Congo, made up of former militiamen who were officially disbanded following the country's civil war. Despite their demobilisation, most retained their weapons and some are suspected of maintaining networks of criminals and playing a key role in the local criminal economies. Identified as exerting a moderate influence (scoring a 4), **foreign criminal actors**, from both nearby countries as well as Asia are known to be directly involved in the illicit trade of fauna.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	3.0
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	1.0
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	4.0
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	4.0
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	2.0
LAW ENFORCEMENT	4.0
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	3.0
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	4.0
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	4.0
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	2.0
PREVENTION	3.0
NON-STATE ACTORS	3.0

The Republic of Congo ranks 36th on the continent for **resilience**. Although no single **resilience** indicator scores above 5, **government transparency and accountability** in particular is identified as essentially non-existent and the greatest barrier to building the country's resilience to organised crime. The government has publicly focused its attention on combating fauna crimes over other organised-criminal activities, including passing legislation, hosting a number of conferences on wildlife protection and setting up national parks to protect endangered species. Nevertheless, lack of transparency, particularly in the illicit trade in flora, undermines the country's ability to respond to organised-crime activities on a wider scale.

The country has adopted **legislation and national strategies** to address organised crime, particularly wildlife trafficking, and the Child Protection Code of 2010, which criminalises child trafficking. Its **judiciary**, however, is described as lacking independence and suffers from widespread corruption and political interference. Cases are often pending for years and perpetrators that are prosecuted have been known to be given amnesty after judgment.

Law enforcement in the country is moderately effective, scoring 4, though it is often hampered by corruption. This also limits the ability to patrol borders, which are described as porous. Weapons, diamonds and wildlife

smuggling between the country and neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo is commonplace.

The **economic regulatory environment** remains limited. The country is a member of a task force on money laundering in Central Africa (Groupe d'Action Contre le Blanchiment d'Argent en Afrique Centrale), a body of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa. It is not on the Financial Action Task Force list of countries that have been identified as having strategic deficiencies in their **anti-money-laundering environment**. Nevertheless, money laundering through investments in domestic and foreign real estate is a growing problem. Additionally, a drop in global oil prices, which began in 2014, has constrained government spending. The resultant reduced ability to pay civil servants' salaries resulted in some civil unrest.

The Republic of Congo scores poorly in the social **resilience** indicators, with **victim and witness support** scoring 2, and **prevention** and **non-state actors** scoring 3. The government does not employ systematic procedures to identify victims among vulnerable groups or refer victims for assistance. Moreover, with the exception of measures tackling fauna-related crimes, crime-prevention activities in the country are virtually non-existent. Moreover, civil society and the media working to improve transparency in certain sectors have been subject to harassment.

