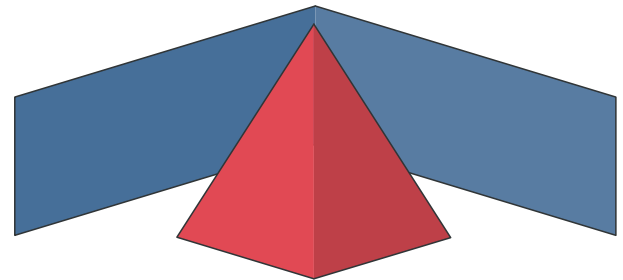


SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone scores marginally above the African average for **criminality**, ranking 23rd in the Index.

The country's most prominent **criminal markets** are those pertaining to the environmental sector, all three of which having a significant negative impact in Sierra Leone. Pangolin trafficking, illegal diamond mining and illicit logging activities all contribute to the high environmental-crime scores – from 6.5 to 7. Also noteworthy is the widespread production and consumption of **cannabis**, reported as having permeated every sector of Sierra Leonean society. **State-embedded criminal actors** are particularly influential in Sierra Leone, at best doing very little to stem organised-criminal activity and, in many cases, actively involved in it. **Foreign criminal actors** are also prominent, operating primarily in the environmental-crime markets.

In terms of **resilience**, Sierra Leone performs relatively poorly, ranking 32nd in Africa, below the continental average. The country's **legislative framework** on organised crime is weak, hampered by endemic corruption and underfunded institutions. Nevertheless, the civil society landscape in Sierra Leone is vibrant, with **non-state actors** often filling crucial gaps in the provision of public services.



 5.00
CRIMINALITY SCORE

23rd of 54 African countries
7th of 15 Western countries

 CRIMINAL MARKETS 5.00

 CRIMINAL ACTORS 5.00

 3.33
STATE RESILIENCE SCORE

32nd of 54 African countries
12th of 15 Western countries



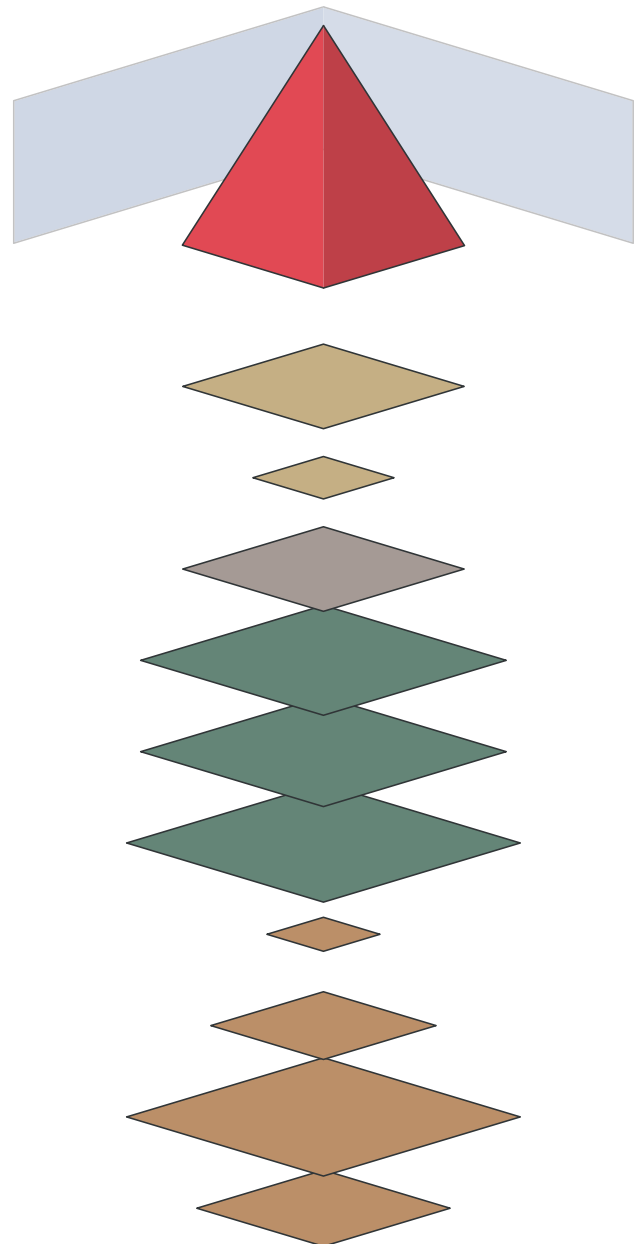
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	5.00
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	1.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	5.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	7.0
FOREIGN ACTORS	6.5



CRIMINAL MARKETS	5.00
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	5.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	2.5
ARMS TRAFFICKING	5.0
FLORA CRIMES	6.5
FAUNA CRIMES	6.5
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	7.0
HEROIN TRADE	2.0
COCAINE TRADE	4.0
CANNABIS TRADE	7.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	4.5



Criminal Markets

Sierra Leone ranks 22nd in Africa for **criminal markets**, with a score of 5, which is marginally above the continental average. Markets for **non-renewables** and **cannabis**, both scoring a 7, have significant impact in Sierra Leone. **Non-renewable-resource crimes**, which score considerably above the continental average of 5.28, are dominated by gold and diamond smuggling. Sierra Leone experiences high levels of artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and gold smuggling. Many

actors are involved, and these activities are prevalent in large parts of the country. However, violence does not appear to be an integral part of the market. Sierra Leone's artisanal and small-scale gold mining remains largely in the informal sector. In fact, most of the country's gold never enters the formal supply chain; instead, it is mined, traded and exported through informal networks that only occasionally and selectively intersect with formal supply and value chains prior to crossing the border.



Cannabis sativa is the most commonly used illegal drug in Sierra Leone. At the domestic level, the plant is cultivated and used all over the country, particularly in the capital, Freetown. Over the past several years, cultivation and use of the drug have increased dramatically, as have exports of the drug to neighbouring Guinea and Liberia, aided by the cooperation of elements within of the country's law-enforcement bodies. Today, Sierra Leone is the principal producer of cannabis sativa in the Mano River Union. It is also the chief exporter of the drug in West Africa to other African countries, the Middle East, Europe and the United States. Cannabis is used among all age groups and socio-economic backgrounds in Sierra Leonean society.

Flora and fauna criminal markets also have a significant influence in Sierra Leone, both recording scores of 6.5, which are significantly higher than the rest of the continent. Flora criminal markets are driven by illegal logging, which is dominated by criminal actors from China, both individuals and companies. A significant factor behind the exponential increase in Sierra Leonean exports of timber in recent years is evidence of corruption, characterised by sales of concessions to Chinese trading companies, in violation of the national trading moratorium. Access to artisanal logging is often contingent on support for certain political parties. Moreover, chieftains and other traditional authorities, known to exert a degree of control over forest resources in Sierra Leone, contribute this illicit and corrupt market.

The **fauna** criminal market in Sierra Leone is dominated by trafficking in pangolins, which is facilitated by economic ties between the country and several East Asian states. There is also poaching of white-necked picathartes, pygmy hippos, forest elephants and monkeys. The enforcement of laws pertaining to fauna has contributed to an increase in illicit fauna trafficking. In particular, illegal fishing has increased in recent years, especially by foreign fishing vessels. The region's marine resources are being depleted at alarming rates, mainly as a result of overfishing and high rates of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Human trafficking and **arms trafficking** have a moderate impact in Sierra Leone, with scores of 5 on the Index – lower than the continental averages. Sierra Leone is a source and destination market for forced labour and sex trafficking, nationally and regionally, with victims being largely recruited from rural provinces to the country's urban and mining centres. The human-trafficking market in Sierra Leone does not appear to be controlled by organised networks, but rather by traffickers operating individually. Arms trafficking is a phenomenon that is linked to past conflicts in the region, and there are flows of

arms within and out of Sierra Leone. Reports have linked military personnel to arms trafficking. Other criminal markets, like the illicit flora market, have been reported to be connected to arms trafficking.

Criminal Actors

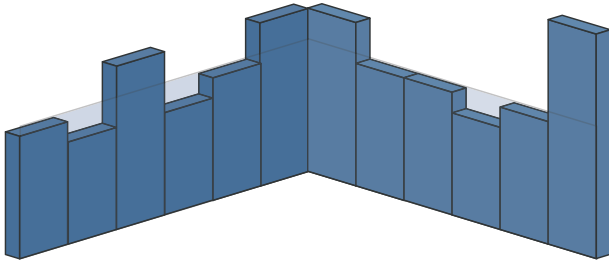
Sierra Leone is one of the few countries in Africa to receive equal scores for **criminal markets** and **criminal actors**, ranking 27th on the continent for the latter. **State-embedded actors** and **foreign actors** have been identified as the most influential criminal actors in Sierra Leone, scoring 7 and 6.5, respectively. Corruption is widespread in the country, and extends its grip from low-ranking public officials to the highest levels of the state apparatus. Politicians' links to organised crime are extensive: few traffickers are held accountable and illicit trade is allowed to flourish. If not actively cooperating with organised criminals, government officials are described as doing little to stop it.

Foreign criminal actors operate in Sierra Leone with a greater degree of influence than the continental average, playing key roles in numerous criminal markets, including the illicit flora and fauna markets, in addition to drugs markets. Latin American drug cartels have established safe passage for cocaine contraband through Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea by bribing top government and military officials, although a recent decline in their influence in the region has been reported. Furthermore, criminal syndicates from East Asia are known to be heavily involved in illicit logging in Sierra Leone and have links to the political class in the country.

Criminal networks, which score 5.5 in the Index, are also heavily involved in organised-criminal activity in Sierra Leone. In particular, several criminal groups operate in illegal mining activities and drug trafficking. Studies have shown that corrupted government officials, police and intelligence officers accept bribes to turn a blind eye to the traffickers' illegal activities. In Sierra Leone, criminal groups engaged in the illegal trade in diamonds, arms, illicit drugs, and timber are generally composed of Sierra Leoneans who appear to occasionally work with foreign nationals from the subregion and beyond. Most criminals establish front companies or small business ventures as a cover for their illegal activities. While Sierra Leonean criminal groups are often considered less sophisticated than larger criminal groups in the region, some actors from Sierra Leone have regional and international reach.



RESILIENCE SCORE



<u>POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE</u>	3.0
<u>GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</u>	2.5
<u>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</u>	4.0
<u>NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS</u>	2.5
<u>JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION</u>	3.0
<u>LAW ENFORCEMENT</u>	4.0
<u>TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</u>	4.0
<u>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING</u>	3.0
<u>ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT</u>	3.0
<u>VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT</u>	2.5
<u>PREVENTION</u>	3.0
<u>NON-STATE ACTORS</u>	5.5

Sierra Leone is ranked 32nd in Africa for **resilience**. Overall, Sierra Leone scores below 5 for all categories except **non-state actors** (5.5); the continental average is 4.3. Media houses operate independently, despite restrictions to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and detainment of journalists has been reported. Civil society is constrained by weak organizational governance and financial control.

Sierra Leone's resilience to organised crime is undermined by widespread corruption in political leadership, weak policing, lack of political will, weak financial regulations, slow economic development, and an overreliance on local organisations to provide protection to victims

and witnesses. Sierra Leone has a very weak **legislative framework** pertaining to organised crime – scoring 2.5 – which is a major constraint to the prosecution of organised-criminal actors. Sierra Leone's **judicial capacity** is also considered extremely ineffective, with a score of 3. This score is attributed to the judicial system not operating independently and the fact that it is tainted by corruption, a lack of resources and a lack of specialised units that focus on organised crime. Slight improvements have been noted, however, in that the National Human Rights Commission has been established, as well the Law Reform Commission, tasked to review existing laws.

