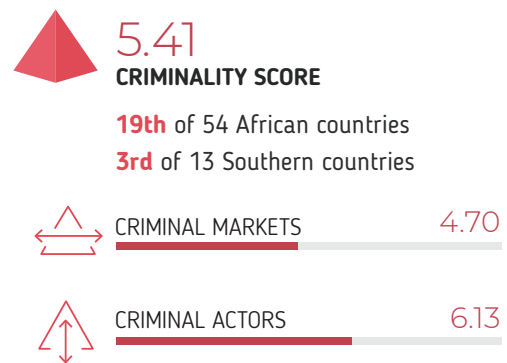
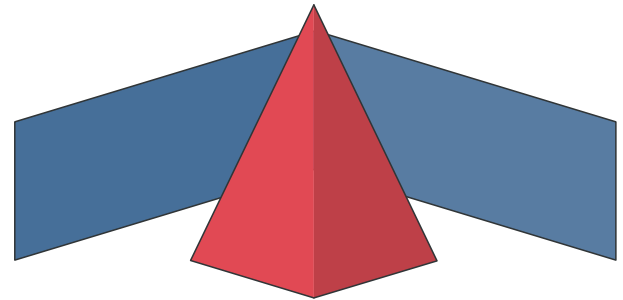


 ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe ranks 19th in the Index, with its poorest **criminality** scores in illegal environmental markets, **criminal networks** and **state-embedded actors**.

**Criminal networks** and **state-embedded actors** act together to exploit the country's resources, especially **non-renewable resources** such as diamonds, but also **fauna**. Although Zimbabwe's illicit narcotics markets, **human trafficking**, **human smuggling**, and **arms trafficking** are all established, scores were moderate in comparison to the environmental markets.

In terms of **resilience**, Zimbabwe scores fairly poorly across all areas, ranking 32nd, with only two categories scoring above 5. However, experts note Zimbabwe's control over its **territorial integrity** and the active role of civil society organisations as positive. However, generally low **resilience** scores are largely due to the participation of state officials in illicit networks. High levels of state corruption at all levels, insufficient **victim and witness support**, and insufficient **prevention** of organised crime contribute to the low **resilience** scores overall.



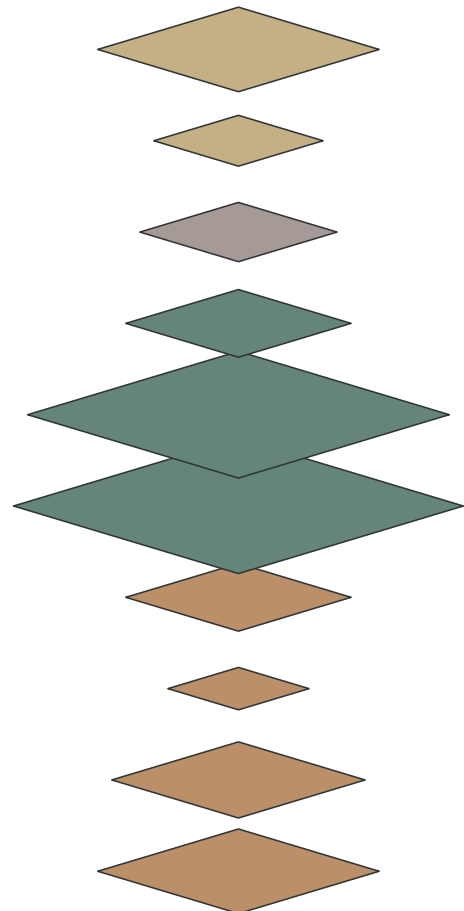
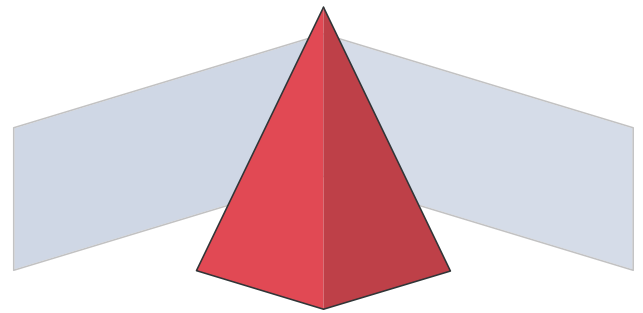
# CRIMINALITY SCORE



<b>CRIMINAL ACTORS</b>	<b>6.13</b>
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	3.5
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	7.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	8.5
FOREIGN ACTORS	5.0



<b>CRIMINAL MARKETS</b>	<b>4.70</b>
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	5.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	3.0
ARMS TRAFFICKING	3.5
FLORA CRIMES	4.0
FAUNA CRIMES	7.5
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	8.0
HEROIN TRADE	4.0
COCAINE TRADE	2.5
CANNABIS TRADE	4.5
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	5.0



## Criminal Markets

Zimbabwe's score for **criminal actors** is considerably higher than its score for **criminal markets**. This reflects the relatively narrow range of criminal markets that are pervasive in the country. Nevertheless, two prominent environmental criminal markets have a significant negative influence on society in Zimbabwe: **non-renewable-resources crimes** and **fauna crimes**.

Zimbabwe is in the top ten countries worst affected by the illicit market for **non-renewable resources**, with a score of 8. This is driven predominantly by

illegally controlled gold and diamond industries. With extremely high unemployment rates in the country, many Zimbabweans have turned to gold mining. In 2017, an estimated 400 000 miners were operating in the criminally controlled gold mining industry. The problem of illegal gold mining has spread through the Eastern Highlands and hundreds of artisanal gold miners have entered the area, destroying natural forests and plantations. Illegal mining operations are also widespread in the Chimanimani Mountains, a narrow belt located on the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border.



Illegal diamond mining is also widespread throughout Zimbabwe. A key feature of the illicit diamond market is the complicity of state actors, both as enablers of, and beneficiaries from, the looting of the natural resources. Illicit diamond miners work in syndicates with members of the police force and army. Organised-criminal groups use the leverage of state power to export diamonds. Although organised-criminal groups have captured the industry, its status is deemed legal under the Kimberley Process. The looting of resources in Zimbabwe is a clear example of predatory elites enriching themselves to the detriment of the country.

The illicit **fauna** market is similarly pervasive in Zimbabwe, scoring 7.5 in the Index. Zimbabwe is a major source country for animal products, primarily elephant ivory and rhino horn. Over the past decade, elephant populations have decreased dramatically, suggesting high levels of poaching, often carried out using cyanide poisoning. Similarly, rhinos are poached in large numbers for their horns. Poachers from neighbouring countries often use cross-border smuggling routes to enter Zimbabwe to poach animals, then return to their origin countries to sell the illegal products. Other illegally sourced animal products include pangolins – the country is a major hub for the illicit pangolin trade – and lion bones.

Illicit drugs markets in Zimbabwe have a moderate influence, in particular the illicit trade in **synthetic drugs** and **cannabis**. The domestic market for synthetic drugs is growing and Zimbabwe is also a transit country for the drugs bound for South Africa. Cannabis is widely cultivated and consumed in Zimbabwe and provides a trading commodity for export. As in many other illicit markets in the country, organised criminal groups control the trade.

## Criminal Actors

Most organised criminal activity in Zimbabwe is carried out by organised criminal networks that often work in tandem with political actors. The country's scores of 7.5 and 8.5, respectively, for **criminal networks** and **state-embedded actors** reflect this.

A significant number of criminal entrepreneur-type networks with links to the state are involved in industries in Zimbabwe such as tobacco, gold, diamonds, wildlife and drugs. To continue funding the patronage system in Zimbabwe, state officials have reportedly turned to criminality, using political office to facilitate illicit profit-making activities. They cooperate with illicit international networks and sanction the use of violence for economic self-gain.

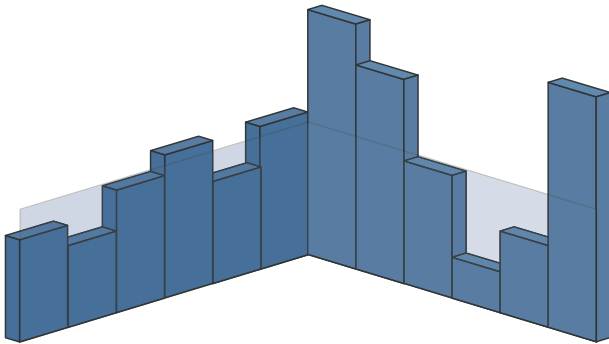
In the process, state institutions are abused to promote and enforce the interests of office holders. According to the Medicines Control Authority for Zimbabwe, drug trafficking in Zimbabwe has increased as criminal networks groom mules to smuggle hard drugs into the country.

Syndicates of drug barons operate in major cities such as the capital Harare and Bulawayo, and strategic border towns such as Beitbridge and Mutare, which give them access to neighbouring countries. These syndicates are powerful, involving high-level government officials. Furthermore, public servants have been implicated in the organised illegal wildlife trade, which has flourished due to deep-rooted corruption involving illicit networks consisting of national game rangers, state institutions, law enforcement and the judiciary.

**Foreign actors** have a moderate influence in Zimbabwe, operating in numerous criminal markets, in particular the illicit fauna market. Poachers from neighbouring countries regularly enter Zimbabwe and return to their countries of origin to sell animal products. Citizens from surrounding nations act as an interface for various illicit markets, including the drugs trade and trade in illicit diamonds. The majority of the foreign criminal actors carrying out organised criminal activity in Zimbabwe operate in the extractive industries.



# RESILIENCE SCORE



<b>POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>PREVENTION</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>NON-STATE ACTORS</b>	<b>6.0</b>

Zimbabwe performs worse than most African nations on **resilience**, ranking 32nd in Africa. The country's weaknesses stem from the very top of the state apparatus. The level of state control of criminal markets in the country is high, coupled with a very poor anti-organised crime platform.

The boundary between formal and illicit economies in Zimbabwe is blurred, with political elites at the centre of all economic activity in the country. Such individuals participate in these economies both directly, through state institutions, and indirectly, working in partnership with criminal entrepreneurs.

Levels of transparency in the Zimbabwean government are very low and the state has captured oversight mechanisms. The country scores very poorly on **political leadership and governance** and **government transparency and accountability**.

The **legislative framework** in relation to organised crime in Zimbabwe is weak and poorly developed. Some criminal markets are addressed in national legislation, such as crimes involving flora and fauna, but the application of laws has been incredibly uneven. The **judicial system** in

Zimbabwe is one of the greatest impediments to tackling organised crime, having been penetrated by state-controlled actors.

Corruption within the judiciary is rife and a culture of impunity is deeply entrenched. There is overwhelming evidence of significant criminal activity in the country and yet very few convictions are ever made. Also, no specialised anti-organised crime **law enforcement** bodies have been established, and the national police force is underfunded and poorly trained.

Organised crime **prevention** measures are severely lacking, as is **support for victims and witnesses** of organised crime. There is no evidence of functioning and comprehensive witness protection programmes in Zimbabwe, though the country's prosecutor-general emphasised their importance at various times throughout 2018.

However, numerous programmes organised by civil society organisations offer support, such as the Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund. Zimbabwe has a vibrant and vocal civil society, which ranks in joint-10th place in Africa. The media, although committed to reporting on organised crime, come under intense pressure from the state.

