

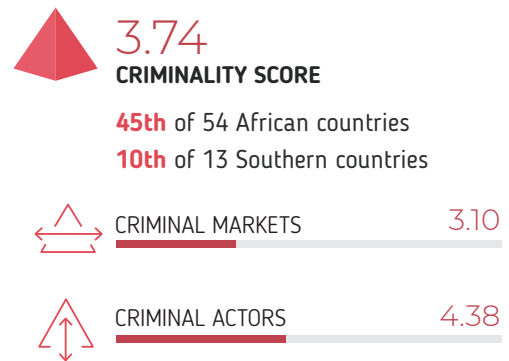
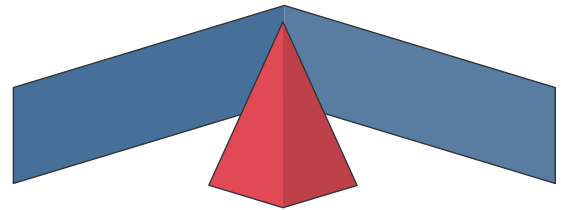
 **COMOROS**

Comoros scores low on **criminality**, ranking 45th out of 54 African countries in the Index.

This is primarily due to the non-existent to little influence of the trade in **cocaine**, **cannabis** and **synthetic drugs**. Notably, however, the **heroin trade** scores considerably higher because the Comoros islands are a significant trans-shipment point.

Among environmental crimes, while **non-renewable-resource crimes** and **flora crimes** are low-scoring, experts deem **fauna crimes** to have a significant influence on society. **Human trafficking** is considered to be a significant problem for Comoros. It is feared corrupt government officials involved in the illicit market may be underreporting it.

Comoros ranks 45th for **resilience**, with only two categories considered to be moderately effective. There are minimal measures for the prevention and curbing of organised crime. This may be due in part to the high level of suspected corruption in the government.



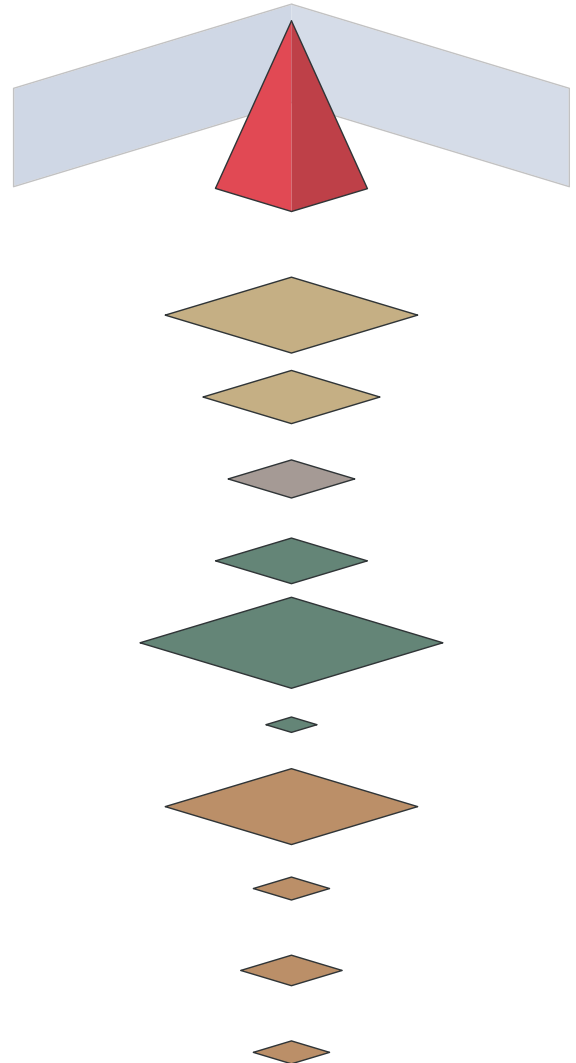
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	4.38
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	1.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	4.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	6.0
FOREIGN ACTORS	6.0



CRIMINAL MARKETS	3.10
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	5.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	3.5
ARMS TRAFFICKING	2.5
FLORA CRIMES	3.0
FAUNA CRIMES	6.0
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	1.0
HEROIN TRADE	5.0
COCAINE TRADE	1.5
CANNABIS TRADE	2.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	1.5



Criminal Markets

The most pervasive **criminal market** in Comoros is **fauna crimes**. Illegal fishing in the Mozambique channel is a significant problem, reflected in a score of 6. Most of the Comorian fleet is owned by foreign nationals or organisations and operates in breach of national laws, mainly in the waters of West Africa. Indeed, Comoros have been issued a 'red card' by the European Union due to the prevalence of the use of Comorian flags as a 'flag of convenience' for foreign-registered vessels. Despite

high levels of IUU fishing, there have been no related convictions in the past two years.

Other environmental categories have low scores, suggesting that **non-renewable-resource crimes** and **flora crimes** are not pervasive in society. However, there are concerns over the illicit trade in vanilla, which runs in parallel to the legal trade.



Human trafficking is considered to have a moderate influence on society, with experts scoring it at 5. Comoros is considered to be a major transit country for people – mainly women – being trafficked to Gulf states as sex workers and forced labourers. Reports also indicate that trafficking is linked to forced begging, transnational domestic servitude and sexual exploitation of children. This is a moderate score, despite concerns that the government of Comoros is underreporting human trafficking.

Information about **arms trafficking** is limited, which is reflected in the low score experts attribute to it. However, the country is described as a potential transit point, with the use of small arms and light weapons reported to be relatively common, especially among pirates and drug traffickers who seek to escape from law enforcement agencies.

In terms of drug markets, there is very little information regarding the illicit drug trade, especially for **synthetic drugs, cannabis** and **cocaine**. Comoros is reported to have among the lowest levels of drug use worldwide and drug markets are described as having a negligible impact on society. Notably, however, the **heroin trade** is considered

to have a moderate influence on society due to reports that the islands are a significant trans-shipment point for heroin from Afghanistan, often bound for Madagascar and South Africa, as well as Europe.

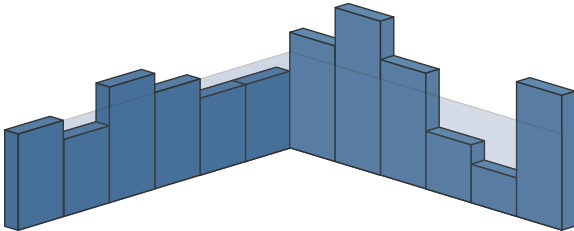
Criminal Actors

There is evidence that **foreign actors** and **state-embedded actors** have a significant negative influence on society. Experts score both **criminal actor** typologies at 6. Comoros is not a drug-producing country but where drug trafficking occurs, it is likely to be conducted by foreign criminal actors. Corruption is reported across all levels of government, facilitating organised crime, in particular human trafficking, which also reportedly involves international syndicates. The nature of these syndicates, however, is unclear.

The human trafficking network includes local **criminal networks** in Comoros. Criminal networks appear to exploit children whose families are trying to send them to Grand Comore, perceived to be an island of opportunity. Experts also report that local groups may be involved in the illicit trade in vanilla. There is no evidence of **mafia-style groups** in Comoros.



RESILIENCE SCORE



<u>POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE</u>	2.5
<u>GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</u>	2.0
<u>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</u>	3.0
<u>NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS</u>	2.5
<u>JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION</u>	2.0
<u>LAW ENFORCEMENT</u>	2.0
<u>TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</u>	3.0
<u>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING</u>	4.0
<u>ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT</u>	3.0
<u>VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT</u>	1.5
<u>PREVENTION</u>	1.0
<u>NON-STATE ACTORS</u>	3.5

Comoros ranks 45th among African countries in terms of **resilience**, due to the high level of corruption throughout the government. Most resilience factors are considered to be non-existent or extremely ineffective. The country has made little to no effort to implement **prevention** measures against organised crime.

The low scores are also affected by the extreme poverty in Comoros, which directly affects its capacity to manage its **economic regulatory environment, victim and witness support** and **anti-money laundering** capacity. However, the under-developed financial

system makes some forms of laundering impossible, such as those involving e-commerce.

Although Comoros has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and five other international treaties relating to organised crime, it only scores 3 on **international cooperation**. This is because the EU has labelled Comoros as non-cooperative, because of its insubstantial efforts to curb illegal fishing and because it has very few extradition agreements with other nations.

