

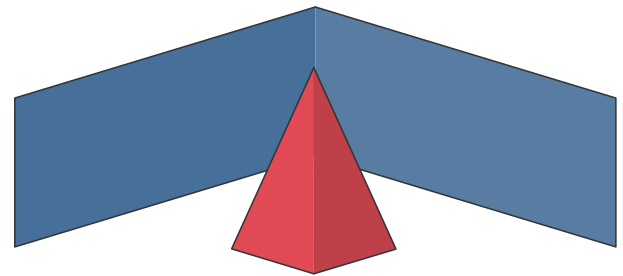
 **LESOTHO**

Lesotho ranks 48th in Africa for **criminality**, highlighting its comparatively low level of criminal activity.

Markets for **heroin**, **cocaine** and **synthetic drugs** reportedly have little to no influence on society. However, the legalisation of cannabis for medicinal purposes has led to Lesotho being at the forefront of the emerging **cannabis** industry. In relation to **non-renewable-resource crimes**, there are concerns over diamond smuggling, as Lesotho is known for its easy access to high-quality diamonds. This has created a market for smuggled diamonds, especially in extremely impoverished areas. Experts note that, in terms of arms, smaller weapons are often smuggled into the country to be used in robbery, hijacking and petty crime. Homicides involving firearms are on the rise in Lesotho, which makes **arms trafficking** a concern.

National **criminal networks** have a significant negative impact on society as they are described as being quite common and use moderate levels of violence. They also often have affiliations with political parties. **State-embedded actors** are, however, the most influential criminal actor type in Lesotho. Low-level corruption is known to facilitate illegal activity in the country, and government officials have been implicated in the human trafficking market.

Lesotho ranks 30th for **resilience**, which reflects the country's relatively average performance. The country scores well for **international cooperation** and **national policies and laws** against organised crime. Notably, however, corruption is considered to be rife and prevention measures and law enforcement in Lesotho, as well as **territorial integrity**, **judicial system** and **detention**, and **victim and witness support** are noted to be extremely ineffective.



**48th** of 54 African countries  
**11th** of 13 Southern countries



**30th** of 54 African countries  
**8th** of 13 Southern countries



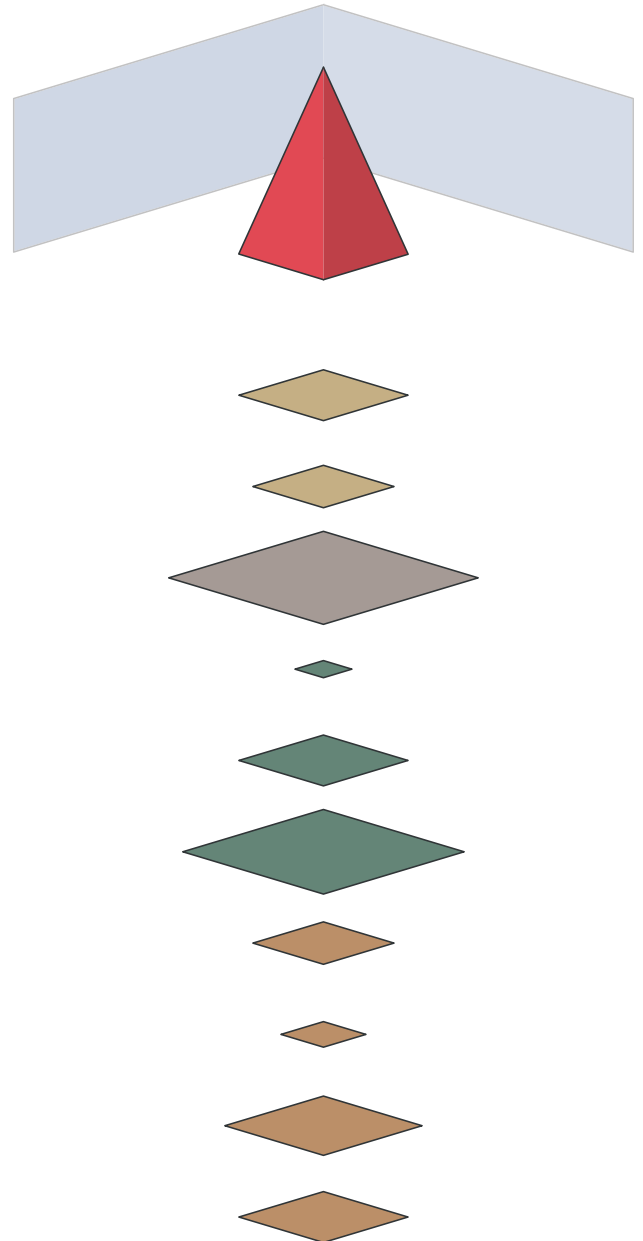
# CRIMINALITY SCORE



<b>CRIMINAL ACTORS</b>	<b>4.25</b>
<b>MAFIA STYLE GROUPS</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>CRIMINAL NETWORKS</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>FOREIGN ACTORS</b>	<b>5.0</b>



<b>CRIMINAL MARKETS</b>	<b>3.05</b>
<b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>HUMAN SMUGGLING</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>ARMS TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>FLORA CRIMES</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>FAUNA CRIMES</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>HEROIN TRADE</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>COCAINE TRADE</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>CANNABIS TRADE</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE</b>	<b>3.0</b>



## Criminal Markets

The criminal market of greatest concern in Lesotho is **arms trafficking**, which is considered to have a moderate to significant negative impact on society, scoring 5.5. This is primarily due to the increased use of smaller arms in crime and inefficient regulation of gun ownership, which has led to an increase in homicides involving firearms.

Lesotho's isolated position – it is entirely enclosed by South Africa – directly affects levels of **human trafficking**

and **human smuggling**, evident in the relatively low scores of 3 and 2.5 respectively in these markets. Notably, however, there are reports of trafficking involving irregular migrants being subjected to forced labour.

With regards to environmental markets, there are no reports of major **flora crimes**. Given the absence of big game, such as elephants and rhinos, fauna crimes are also considered to have a minimal impact on society. However,



reports suggest that poaching of cheetahs and leopards is prevalent, and stock theft remains a problem along the border with South Africa.

**Non-renewable-resource crimes** are considered to have a moderate and spreading influence on society, primarily due to the diamond smuggling market. Efforts to control the diamond sector are often undermined due to political instability and high poverty. Experts therefore describe smuggling as common.

In terms of criminal drug markets, **heroin** and **cocaine** use is deemed to be low. This is due to the high price of cocaine and because Lesotho is a transit country for heroin intended for the South African market. However, there are reports that the heroin market in Lesotho is growing.

**Synthetic drugs** are smuggled in from South Africa, though reportedly there is no large affiliated criminal economy. Legal synthetics are more widespread. With respect to **cannabis**, the legalisation of medicinal cannabis has led to industrialisation in many locations. Recreational use is supplied by illicit local cultivation.

## Criminal Actors

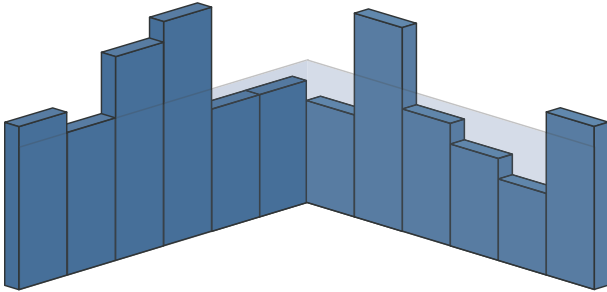
In Lesotho, national **criminal networks** have a moderate influence on society, which is reflected in a score of 5. These networks are primarily involved in vehicle, diamond and drug smuggling. Criminal syndicates often use weapons and moderate levels of violence. They are linked to political parties in Lesotho.

Low-level state actors are known to be easily corrupted by syndicates. Experts note that **state-embedded actors** have a moderate influence on society and they receive the highest score of the four criminal actor types, rated 6.

Reports are insufficient to indicate the criminal involvement of **foreign actors** in Lesotho, though syndicates based in South Africa are said to be involved in vehicle theft and smuggling. Asian criminal actors are reportedly involved in the trafficking of Asian nationals into the country to work in the sex industry. There is no evidence to suggest there are **mafia-style groups** in Lesotho.



# RESILIENCE SCORE



<b>POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</b>	<b>2.5</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>2.5</b>
<b>PREVENTION</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>NON-STATE ACTORS</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Lesotho performs marginally worse than the African average in terms of **resilience**, ranking 30th. The country has signed numerous international agreements and it has agreements in place with South Africa that have reduced **human smuggling** between the nations. A broad range of **policies and laws** address crime, which is reflected in Lesotho's score of 5.5, the country's highest score for any **resilience** indicator, though some are not consistent with international law.

While institutional **anti-money laundering** frameworks are moderately effective, Lesotho's resilience to organised crime is scored as extremely ineffective in other areas. The country's **territorial integrity** scores 2.5 due to the porous border with South Africa. Smuggling of vehicles, livestock, diamonds, cannabis and people regularly occurs.

High levels of corruption, with government officials being implicated in human trafficking, means a low rating for **government transparency and accountability**, with a score of 3.5. There are also concerns about Lesotho's **judicial** and **law enforcement** capacity to address organised crime. Experts note the independence of the judiciary is subject to political manipulation and therefore questionable. Law enforcement in the country is also said to be insufficient to prevent organised crime, primarily due to poor training and the complicity of officials.

In terms of **economic regulatory capacity**, Lesotho is principally dependent on trade with South Africa and susceptible to market fluctuations. Civil society organisations are described as being hampered by lack of funds and considered to be inactive.