WILDLIFE ECONOMY INVESTMENT INDEX (WEII)

RESULTS REPORT

V2
DECEMBER 2025

CONTENTS

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DISCLAIMER

Although every attempt was made to collect data from as many sources as possible and to ensure the inclusion of all relevant indicators, there are some data gaps which have been found during the process. Attempt will be made in future iterations of the WEII to ensure that these data gaps are filled. The authors have taken care to ensure that the material presented in this report is accurate and correct. However, the authors do not guarantee the accuracy of the data or material contained in this report, and accept no legal liability or responsibility connected to its use or interpretation.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The African Leadership University's School of Wildlife Conservation's Wildlife Economy Research Project seeks to increase public and private investment in natural landscapes across Africa. By improving investment in wildlife-based activities, the project aims to support biodiversity conservation while contributing to inclusive economic growth. It promotes the recognition of wildlife as a strategic national asset and an important driver of sustainable development. Central to this work is the Wildlife Economy Investment Index (WEII), developed as a structured and evidence-based tool to assess and promote investment readiness within Africa's wildlife economy.

The WEII evaluates African countries based on both the status of their wildlife resources and the broader environment that enables investment. It is built around five core pillars: wildlife assets, wildlife management, ease of doing business, public sector capacity, and investment safety. These pillars are organised into two sub-indices. The Wildlife Status Sub-index assesses the extent, condition, and management of wildlife resources. The Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index examines the policy, regulatory, governance, and economic conditions that influence wildlife-based investment.

The WEII v2 maintains the same methodological framework as Version 1 (published in 2023) to ensure consistency and comparability. It draws on 280 indicators from 34 datasets provided by 24 recognised institutions. The indicators are organised into five categories and 18 sub-categories. Scores are calculated using min-max normalisation and averaged to produce results on a standardised scale from 0 to 100, where 100 represents the strongest performance. This approach allows meaningful comparison across countries and over time. Full methodological details are available in the accompanying WEII v2 Methodology Report.

Version 2 updates the underlying data, where available, while maintaining the original structure and statistical methodology of the WEII Version 1. This allows for direct comparison between WEII v1 and WEII v2 across all levels of aggregation, including sub-category, category, sub-index, and overall index scores. The report analyses changes in country performance across these levels to identify improvement, stagnation, or decline. This comparative assessment reinforces the WEII as a monitoring tool and provides insight into trends within the wildlife economy landscape.

In addition, WEII v2 includes a static indicator exposure analysis. Some indicators did not change between Version 1 and Version 2 due to data update cycles or limited availability of new data. The exposure analysis assesses the extent to which country scores are influenced by indicators that remained unchanged. This supports careful interpretation of performance shifts and helps distinguish between real change and statistical stability driven by static data.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of country performance across all components of the Index. It identifies leading and lagging countries within each category and sub-category, presents continental and regional averages, and highlights areas where improvement is needed. Regional analysis across Africa's Regional Economic Communities supports coordinated policy development and collective action.

As with Version 1, the WEII v2 includes country clustering analysis to group countries with similar performance profiles. This provides additional insight into structural patterns within the wildlife economy landscape and supports peer learning, targeted reform, and informed investment decisions.

The WEII v2 builds on the foundation established in the inaugural edition. It supports the evidence base for wildlife economy policy and investment while reinforcing the importance of sustainable wildlife management as a contributor to long-term economic resilience. The WEII remains a practical tool to guide reform, unlock investment, and support the growth of Africa's wildlife economy in a responsible and inclusive manner.

Extensive stakeholder engagement related to Version 1, as well as related to the draft results of Version 2, has highlighted important gaps in terms of ground-truthing of some of the indicators, given the macro-level of a number of those currently included. Based on these engagements, the African Leadership University's School of Wildlife Conservation is establishing key Expert Groups to support with filling these gaps and ensuring that the next iteration of the WEII aligns more accurately with realities on the ground and also includes a broader range of indicators that incorporates wildlife economy activities beyond tourism.

Version 3 will introduce a substantial redesign of the WEII. While Version 2 maintains continuity to allow comparison with Version 1, the next iteration will move beyond this structure to address key limitations identified through analysis and stakeholder engagement. This will include a rebalancing of the WEII to better reflect ecological realities, the integration of new data types such as wildlife abundance and condition, and an expanded scope that captures a broader range of wildlife economy activities beyond tourism. As a result, Version 3 will not be directly comparable with earlier editions but will provide a more accurate and policy-relevant representation of wildlife economy performance across Africa.

CONTINENTAL PROFILE

Continental profile

This section provides an overview of the results for the whole continent, including a breakdown by WEII category and WEII sub-category. A comparison of all results with those in v1 can be found in the *Comparative analysis of v1 and v2* section. It is important to note that coverage varies across components of the WEII v2. **For some sub-categories, categories, sub-indices, and the overall Index, fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability**.

Overall Wildlife Economy Investment Index (WEII) scores

The full final results of the overall Wildlife Economy Investment Index (WEII) v2 are discussed in this section. Figure 1 gives a graphical presentation of the structure of the WEII and provides the number of indicators per sub-index, category and sub-category. Figure 2 presents the overall scores and country rankings.

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Figure 1: Overall structure of the Wildlife Economy Investment Index (WEII)

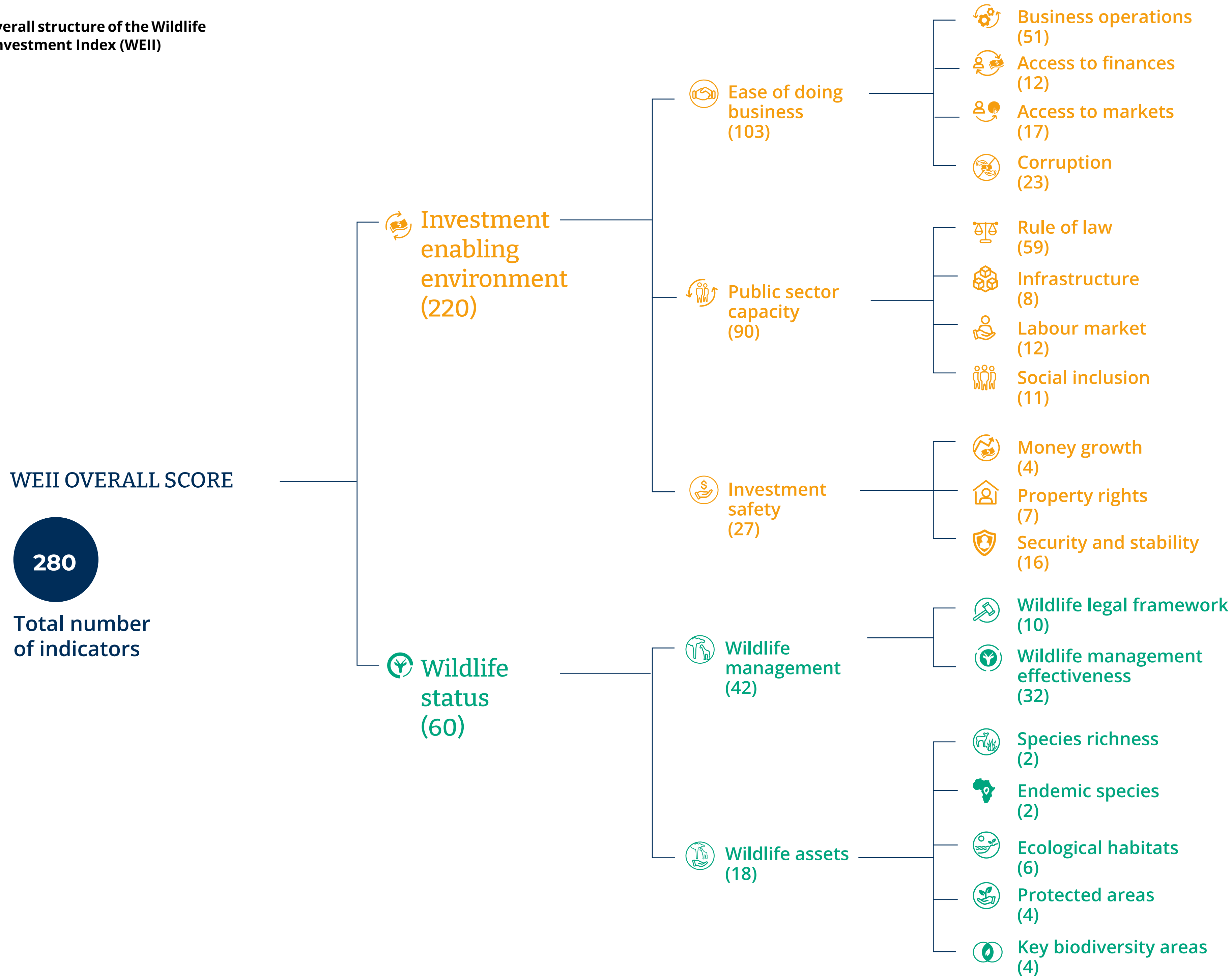


Figure 2: Overall WEII (v2, 2025) rankings and scores

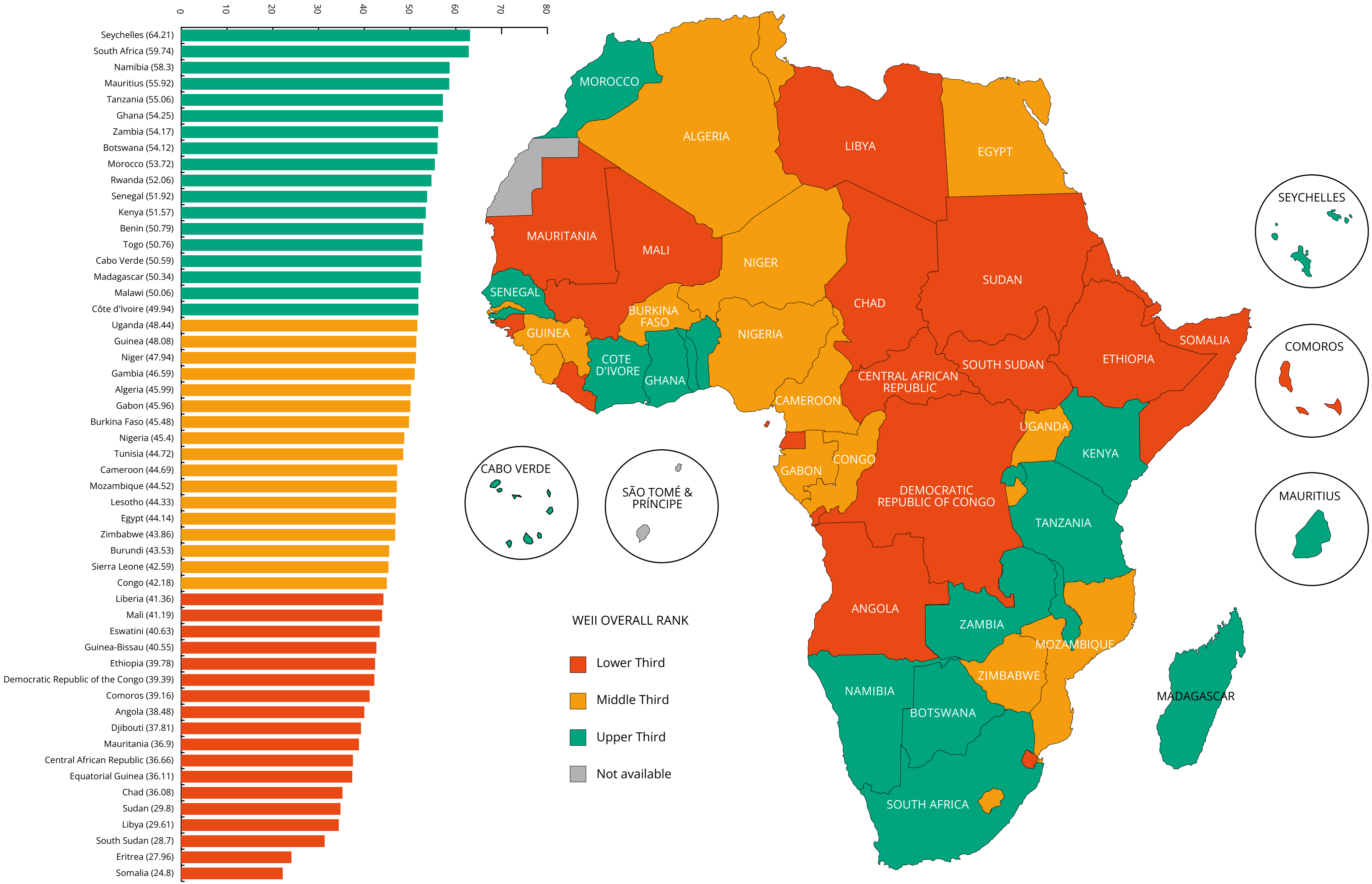


Figure 2 displays the overall performance of African countries in the WEII v2. **Seychelles leads the WEII v2 with an overall score of 64.21 out of 100.** Its position is **driven by exceptional performance in the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index**, where it ranks first with a score of 78.05. Seychelles records the highest scores in investment safety and anti-corruption, and ranks first in security and stability. It also performs strongly in public sector capacity and infrastructure. Although its Wildlife Status score of 50.37 places it sixth on the continent, it remains within the upper third, supported by solid performances in terms of protected areas and wildlife management effectiveness.

South Africa ranks second overall with a score of 59.74. It leads the continent in the Wildlife Status Sub-index with a score of 53.48. The country ranks first in wildlife management and performs strongly in species richness and wildlife management effectiveness. In the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index, South Africa ranks fifth, supported by high scores in infrastructure, rule of law, access to markets, and business operations. Its balanced performance across both sub-indices secures its position among the top performers.

Namibia places third with an overall score of 58.30. It performs strongly in both sub-indices, ranking fourth in Wildlife Status and sixth in the Investment-enabling Environment. Namibia records high scores in wildlife management, rule of law, property rights, and security and stability. It also ranks within the top five for key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. This consistent performance across environmental and institutional dimensions strengthens its position within the upper third.

Mauritius ranks fourth with a score of 55.92. Its performance is largely driven by the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index, where it ranks second with a score of 73.96. **Mauritius leads the continent in ease of doing business and business operations,** and performs strongly in property rights, labour market conditions, and access to finance. However, its Wildlife Status score of 37.89 places it in the lower third for that Sub-index, reflecting limited natural wildlife assets despite relatively strong wildlife management structures.

Tanzania completes the top five with a score of 55.06. Tanzania ranks third in Wildlife Status, supported by very high species richness and strong performance in protected areas. In the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index it ranks fifteenth, reflecting moderate but stable institutional and market conditions. **Its strong wildlife asset base remains a key driver of its overall position.**

At the lower end of the WEII v2, **Somalia records the lowest overall score at 24.80**. Eritrea and South Sudan follow with scores of 27.96 and 28.70 respectively. These countries rank in the lower third across both sub-indices, reflecting challenges in wildlife management, governance, infrastructure, and investment safety.

In total, 17 countries achieve overall scores above 50 out of 100. **The continental mean score stands at approx. 44.92.** As in Version 1, **average performance in the Investment-enabling Environment remains stronger than in Wildlife Status**. The mean score for Wildlife Status is approx. 40.98, while the Investment-enabling Environment records a higher mean of approx. 48.87.

The 75th percentile further illustrates this difference. For the Wildlife Status Sub-index, the 75th percentile score is 45.87, meaning only one quarter of countries score above this level. In contrast, the 75th percentile for the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index stands at 57.72. This indicates that higher levels of performance are more common within the investment and governance dimensions than within wildlife assets and conservation outcomes. Together, these results highlight the continued need to improve wildlife assets and management across the continent, while sustaining improvements in governance and investment conditions. This gap should, however, be interpreted with caution, as the Wildlife Status Sub-index is based on a more limited set of indicators, which reduces its sensitivity and may understate variation and change in ecological performance.

The distribution of scores across sub-indices, categories and sub-categories reveals distinct performance patterns. Some countries rank highly in governance-related areas such as rule of law, property rights, infrastructure, and security, yet record weaker outcomes in wildlife assets, endemic species, or ecological habitats. Others demonstrate strong biodiversity and protected area performance but face limitations in business climate, finance, or institutional capacity. These differences emphasise that wildlife potential and investment readiness do not always advance together. **A balanced approach that promotes both conservation outcomes and enabling conditions remains essential for unlocking the full potential of the wildlife economy.**

Relationship between the WEII v2 overall score and other indices/indicators

Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI)

The WEII v2 shows a positive and statistically significant correlation with the **Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI)** (Figure 3). This **indicates a moderate association between wildlife economy investment readiness and travel and tourism development across the countries analysed.**

Countries with higher WEII v2 scores often also report relatively strong TTDI performance. For example, South Africa, Mauritius, Botswana, Kenya, Morocco, and Tanzania rank among the stronger performers in both indices. These countries combine comparatively favourable investment environments, governance capacity, and wildlife resources with established tourism sectors. This alignment suggests that countries with stronger overall enabling conditions and natural assets tend to also demonstrate stronger tourism development outcomes.

However, the relationship is not uniform across all countries. Egypt records one of the highest TTDI scores in the sample while its WEI v2 score remains closer to the continental average. This partly reflects differences in the underlying drivers of performance. Egypt's tourism sector is strongly supported by cultural heritage, infrastructure, and well-developed tourism services, while its wildlife assets and species diversity are more limited. As a result, its Wildlife Status Sub-index score is comparatively lower, which reduces its overall WEII v2 performance despite strong tourism outcomes. Similarly, Namibia records a relatively high WEII v2 score, reflecting strong wildlife management and governance indicators, while its TTDI score is comparatively moderate.

Countries with lower WEII v2 scores, such as Sierra Leone, Mali, and Angola, also tend to have lower TTDI scores. This pattern reflects overlapping structural constraints, including infrastructure gaps, institutional capacity limitations, and weaker enabling environments.

The results indicate a meaningful positive association between wildlife economy investment readiness and tourism development. While wildlife assets and enabling investment conditions form an important component of tourism competitiveness, tourism performance is also influenced by additional factors such as cultural resources, infrastructure, and service capacity. The strength of this relationship should also be interpreted with some caution, as the WEII v2 includes a number of indicators closely linked to tourism-related activities. This may contribute to the observed correlation and means it does not fully capture the broader range of wildlife economy sectors beyond tourism.

Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)

The WEII v2 shows a very strong positive correlation with the **Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)** (Figure 4). This indicates a close statistical association between wildlife economy investment readiness and overall governance performance across Africa.

Countries with higher WEII v2 scores consistently tend to have higher IIAG scores. Seychelles, Mauritius, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Cabo Verde rank among the top performers in both indices. These countries demonstrate relatively strong performance across governance dimensions such as rule of law, public sector effectiveness, transparency, and institutional capacity, alongside favourable wildlife economy investment conditions. Their positions reflect alignment between broader governance strength and the factors captured within the WEII v2, particularly public sector capacity, investment safety, and regulatory quality.

Similarly, countries with lower WEII v2 scores, including Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Sudan, also record lower IIAG scores. This pattern reflects shared constraints related to governance stability, institutional effectiveness, and investment conditions. These governance challenges are reflected across multiple WEII v2 components, including rule of law, property rights, security and stability, and public sector capacity.

Some variation exists among mid-performing countries. For example, Tunisia records a relatively high IIAG score compared to its WEII v2 score, reflecting comparatively strong governance

Figure 3: The relationship between the WEII v2 and the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) (r=0.58)

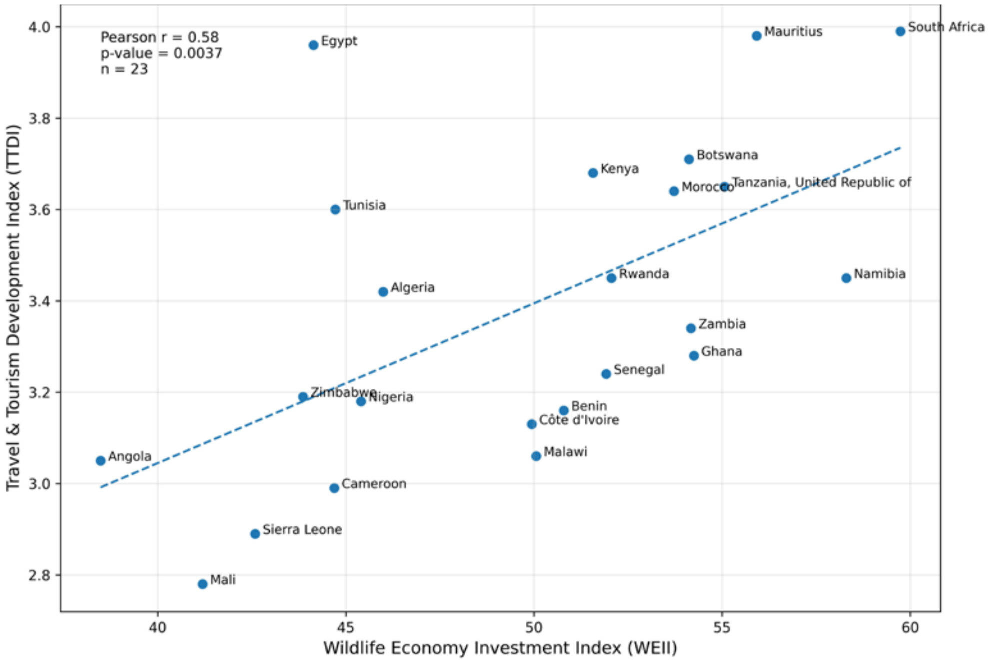
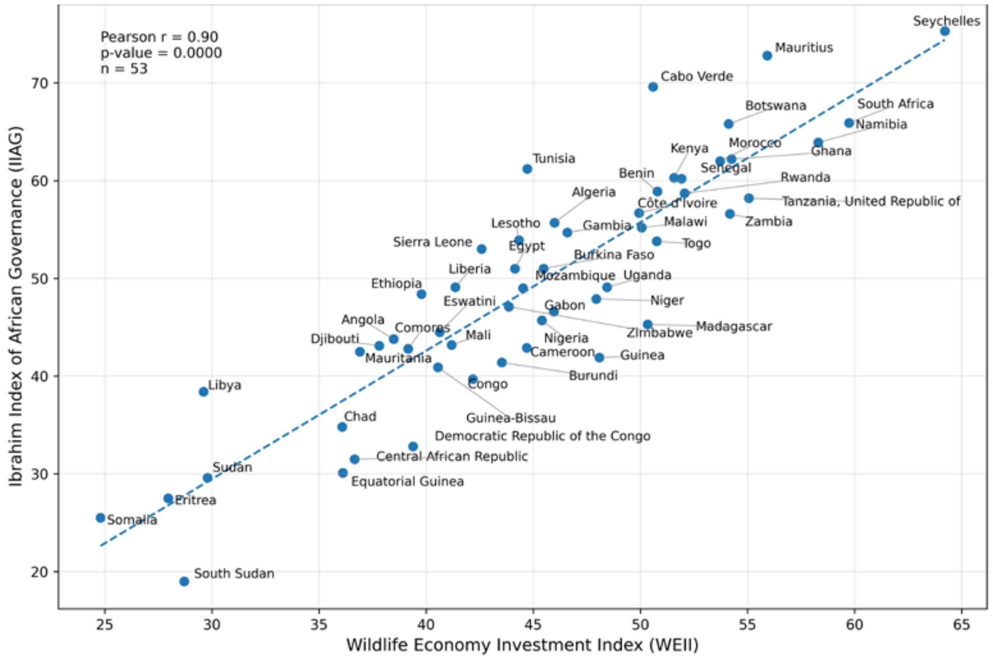


Figure 4: The relationship between the WEII v2 and the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) (r=0.90)



indicators despite more moderate wildlife economy investment readiness. Madagascar and Guinea record WEII v2 scores that exceed what might be expected based on their IIAG performance, reflecting the influence of wildlife assets and conservation-related indicators.

The results indicate a strong relationship between governance performance and wildlife economy investment readiness. Many WEII indicators directly reflect governance quality, including institutional effectiveness, regulatory frameworks, corruption control, and investor protections. This alignment highlights the importance of governance conditions as a key component of the broader environment assessed by the WEII v2. The strength of the association should, however, be interpreted with some caution, as the WEII v2 incorporates 32 indicators drawn from the IIAG out of a total of 280 indicators. This partial overlap contributes to the observed correlation and reinforces the close linkage between governance measures and investment readiness within the Index, while the WEII continues to capture additional dimensions related to wildlife assets and management.

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

The WEII v2 shows a strong positive correlation with the **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** (Figure 5). This **indicates a strong association between wildlife economy investment readiness and lower perceived levels of corruption across African countries.**

Countries with higher WEII v2 scores generally also record higher CPI scores, reflecting lower perceived corruption. Seychelles, Cabo Verde, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, and Rwanda rank among the strongest performers in both indices. These countries demonstrate comparatively strong governance environments, including higher levels of transparency, institutional accountability, and regulatory quality. These governance characteristics are reflected in several WEII v2 components, particularly anti-corruption, rule of law, property rights, and investment safety.

Similarly, countries with lower WEII v2 scores, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Libya, also record among the lowest CPI scores. These countries face significant governance and institutional challenges, which are reflected in weaker performance across the investment-enabling environment components of the WEII. This alignment highlights the **close relationship between broader governance conditions and wildlife economy investment readiness.**

Some variation is present among mid-performing countries. For example, Madagascar records a relatively high WEII v2 score but a lower CPI score, reflecting strong wildlife assets alongside governance constraints. Ethiopia records a comparatively higher CPI score relative to its WEII v2 score, reflecting governance strengths that are not fully matched by wildlife economy investment readiness indicators.

The strong statistical association reflects the importance of governance quality within the broader framework assessed by the WEII v2. Several WEII indicators directly capture institutional transparency, corruption control, regulatory enforcement, and investor protections. These overlapping dimensions contribute

Figure 5: The relationship between the WEII v2 and the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) (r=0.80)

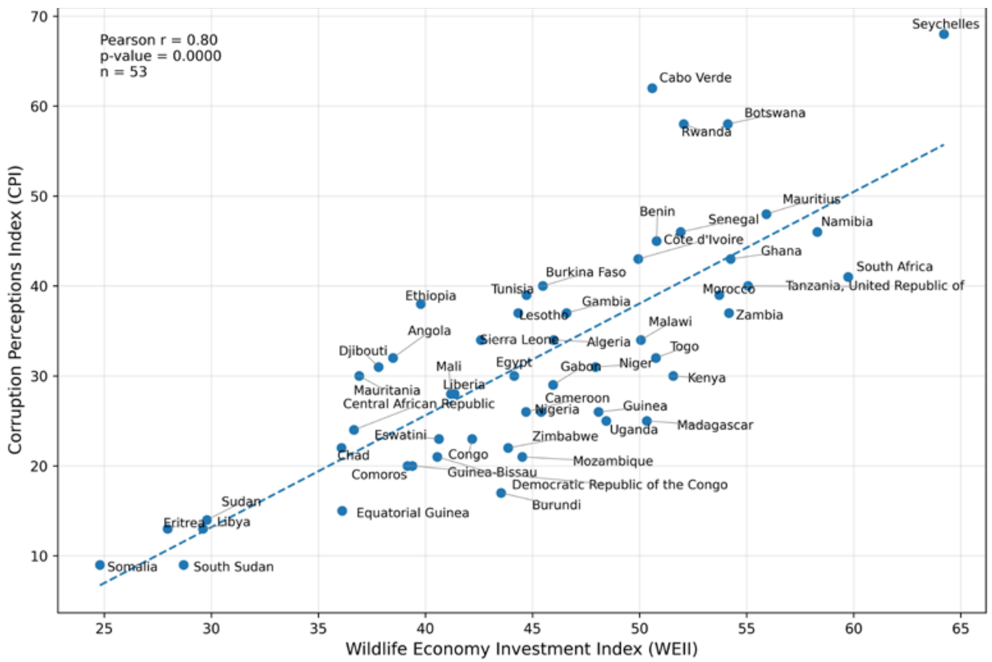
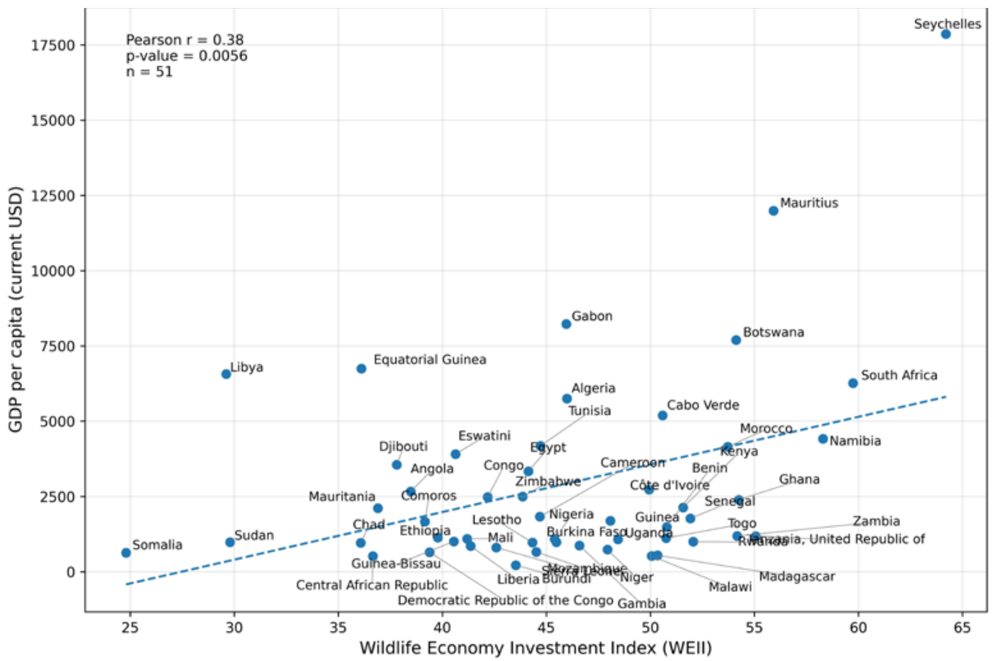


Figure 6: The relationship between the WEII v2 and GDP per capita (r=0.38)



to the observed alignment between the two indices, while also highlighting that **wildlife economy investment readiness reflects both natural asset endowment and the quality of the enabling governance environment.** It is important to note that the Corruption Perceptions Index is included as one of the indicators within the WEII, although it represents only a small share of the total 280 indicators.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita

The WEII v2 shows a positive and statistically significant correlation with **GDP per capita** (Figure 6). This indicates **a modest association between wildlife economy investment readiness and income levels across African countries.**

Countries with higher WEII v2 scores often include several upper middle income economies. Seychelles, Mauritius, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, and Cabo Verde rank among the strongest performers in both WEII and GDP per capita. These countries benefit from relatively favourable investment environments, governance capacity, and infrastructure, alongside established wildlife economy and tourism sectors. Their position reflects alignment between broader economic capacity and the institutional and environmental conditions captured by the WEII v2.

Some countries with relatively high GDP per capita, such as Equatorial Guinea and Libya, record comparatively lower WEII v2 scores. This reflects the influence of governance, investment safety, wildlife management, and institutional quality, which are not directly captured by income levels alone. Several countries with moderate or low GDP per capita, including Tanzania, Rwanda, and Zambia, achieve relatively strong WEII scores. This reflects the importance of wildlife assets, conservation performance, and institutional progress alongside economic factors.

The modest strength of the correlation indicates that wildlife economy investment readiness is not solely associated with national income levels. The WEII v2 incorporates multiple dimensions beyond economic output, including wildlife assets, governance quality, regulatory frameworks, and investment conditions. These components capture structural and institutional characteristics that may vary independently of income.

The results suggest that while higher income levels are often associated with stronger WEII v2 performance, income alone does not fully explain wildlife economy investment readiness. Countries at different income levels demonstrate varying combinations of wildlife resource endowment, governance capacity, and investment conditions, highlighting the multidimensional nature of wildlife economy development across Africa.

Figure 7: The relationship between the WEII v2 and the Human Development Index (HDI) (r=0.47)

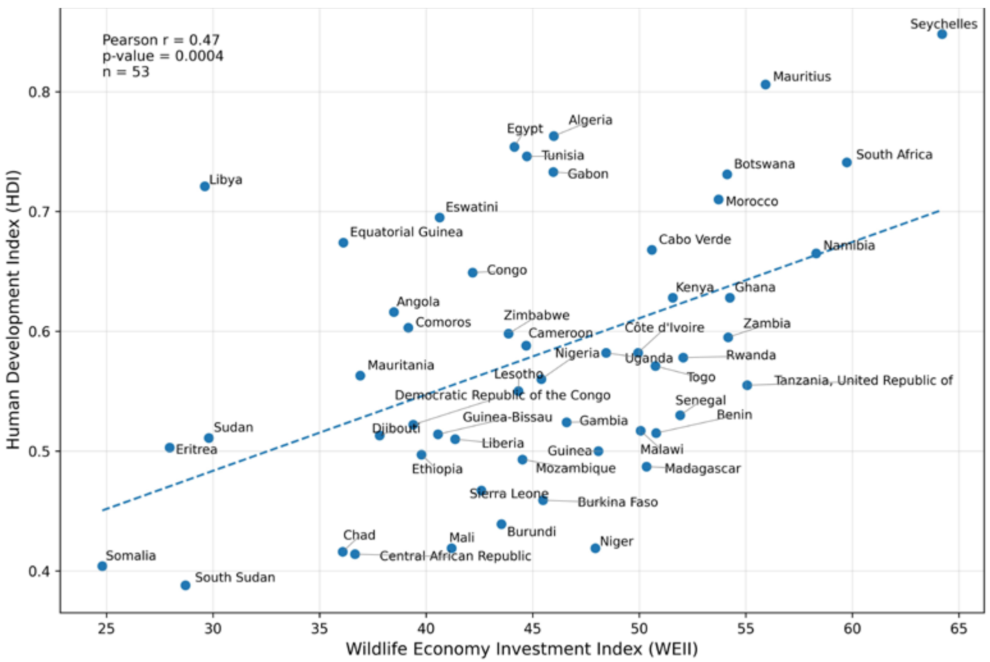
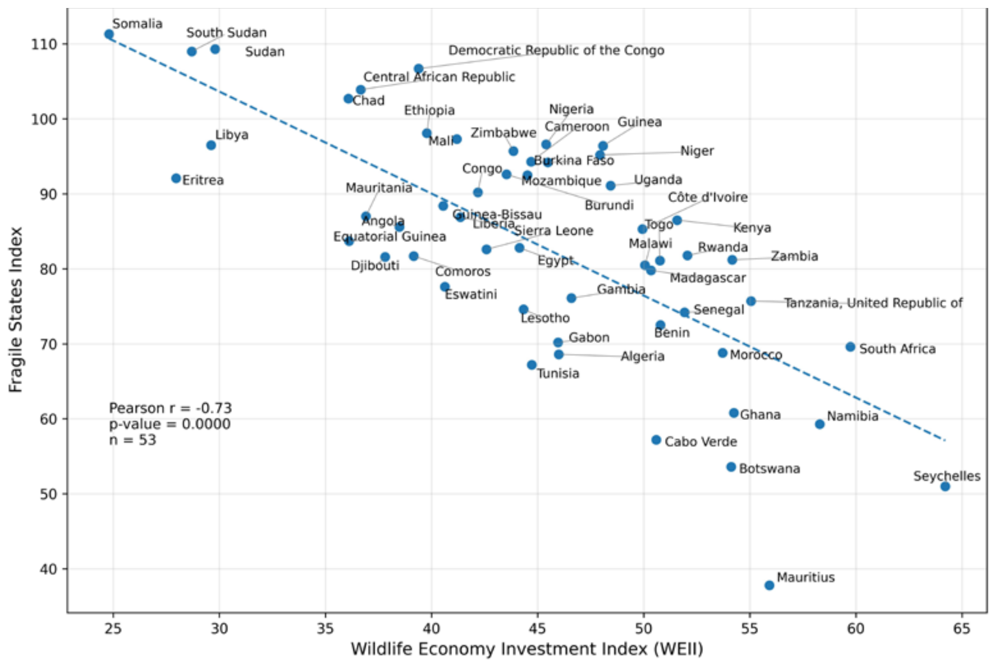


Figure 8: The relationship between the WEII v2 and the Fragile States Index (r=-0.73)



Human Development Index (HDI)

The WEII v2 shows a moderate positive correlation with the **Human Development Index (HDI)** (Figure 7). This **indicates a statistically significant association between wildlife economy investment readiness and broader human development outcomes across Africa.**

Countries with higher WEII v2 scores often also record relatively higher HDI values. Seychelles, Mauritius, South Africa, Botswana, Morocco, and Namibia rank among the stronger performers in both indices. These countries demonstrate relatively favourable conditions across governance, infrastructure, institutional capacity, and investment safety, alongside higher levels of income, education, and health outcomes. This alignment reflects the overlap between several WEII components and structural factors that are commonly associated with higher human development.

Some countries with moderate or lower WEII v2 scores, such as Libya and Equatorial Guinea, record relatively high HDI values. This reflects the influence of income-driven HDI components, particularly gross national income per capita, which may not fully align with wildlife economy investment readiness or governance-related indicators. Countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda, and Zambia achieve relatively strong WEII v2 scores while maintaining moderate HDI levels. This reflects the contribution of wildlife assets, conservation performance, and institutional progress independent of broader human development levels.

Countries with lower WEII v2 scores, including Somalia, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic, also record among the lowest HDI values. These countries face structural challenges across governance, infrastructure, and institutional capacity, which are reflected in both indices.

The moderate correlation indicates that wildlife economy investment readiness is associated with broader development conditions, but remains distinct from them. The WEII v2 captures specific dimensions related to wildlife assets, conservation effectiveness, governance, and investment conditions, which may evolve differently from general human development outcomes across countries.

Fragile States Index

The WEII v2 shows a strong negative correlation with the **Fragile States Index** (Figure 8). **This indicates a strong inverse association between wildlife economy investment readiness and state fragility.** Countries with higher WEII v2 scores tend to record lower Fragile States Index scores, which correspond to lower levels of fragility.

Countries with strong WEII v2 performance, including Seychelles, Mauritius, Botswana, Namibia, Ghana, and Cabo Verde, also rank among the least fragile states in the sample. These countries demonstrate relatively stable governance environments, stronger institutional capacity, and more favourable investment conditions. These characteristics align closely with key components of the WEII v2, particularly investment safety, rule of law, public sector capacity, and regulatory effectiveness.

In contrast, countries with lower WEII v2 scores, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic, record among the highest Fragile States Index scores. These countries face significant challenges related to political stability, institutional capacity, and security. These structural constraints are reflected across multiple WEII v2 components, especially those related to governance, investment safety, and business environment conditions.

Some variation exists among mid-performing countries. For example, Tanzania and Senegal achieve relatively strong WEII v2 scores while maintaining moderate fragility levels. Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda record moderate fragility scores despite relatively strong WEII performance. These differences reflect the multidimensional nature of both indices, which capture overlapping but distinct aspects of national performance.

The strong negative correlation highlights the close relationship between state stability and wildlife economy investment readiness. Many of the institutional, governance, and security conditions captured by the Fragile States Index are also reflected in the enabling environment components of the WEII v2. This alignment shows the importance of stable and effective institutional environments within the broader framework assessed by the WEII v2. It is important to note that the Fragile States Index is included as one of the indicators within the WEII, although it represents only a small share of the total 280 indicators.

Sub-index scores

The WEII consists of two sub-indices: the Wildlife Status Sub-index and the Investment-Enabling Environment Sub-index. Figure 9 presents the country scores and rankings based on the Wildlife Status Sub-index, while Figure 10 presents the scores and rankings based on the Investment-Enabling Environment Sub-index.

Wildlife Status Sub-index

The Wildlife Status Sub-index captures the condition, diversity, protection and management of wildlife assets across African countries. Scores range from 17.44 to 53.48, with South Africa ranking first (53.48), followed closely by Madagascar (53.44) and Tanzania (53.05). Namibia (50.65), Zambia (50.62), and Seychelles (50.37) also rank within the top six, reflecting relatively strong overall wildlife status. These countries combine high biodiversity value with comparatively stronger protection measures and management systems.

A clear pattern emerges among top performers, many of which are located in southern and eastern Africa. Countries such as South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, and Tanzania demonstrate consistently strong results across wildlife assets, protected areas coverage, and wildlife management frameworks. Madagascar stands out due to its exceptionally high scores in endemic species and species richness, reflecting its globally significant biodiversity and high levels of ecological uniqueness. Similarly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Congo rank in the upper third of the Wildlife Status Sub-index, driven primarily by strong ecological habitats and wildlife assets scores, despite weaker results in management effectiveness and investment conditions.

The results also highlight important differences between biodiversity endowment and management performance. Several countries with strong wildlife assets do not necessarily achieve equally strong management outcomes. For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic rank highly in wildlife assets and ecological habitats but perform less strongly in wildlife management effectiveness and legal framework indicators. This reflects the **distinction between natural biodiversity endowment and institutional capacity to manage and protect these resources effectively.**

Some countries achieve relatively strong management performance despite more limited biodiversity endowment. Morocco, Togo, and Benin rank highly in wildlife management indicators, including legal frameworks and management systems, but record more moderate scores in wildlife assets. These results reflect **the role of policy frameworks, governance, and conservation management in shaping overall wildlife status outcomes.**

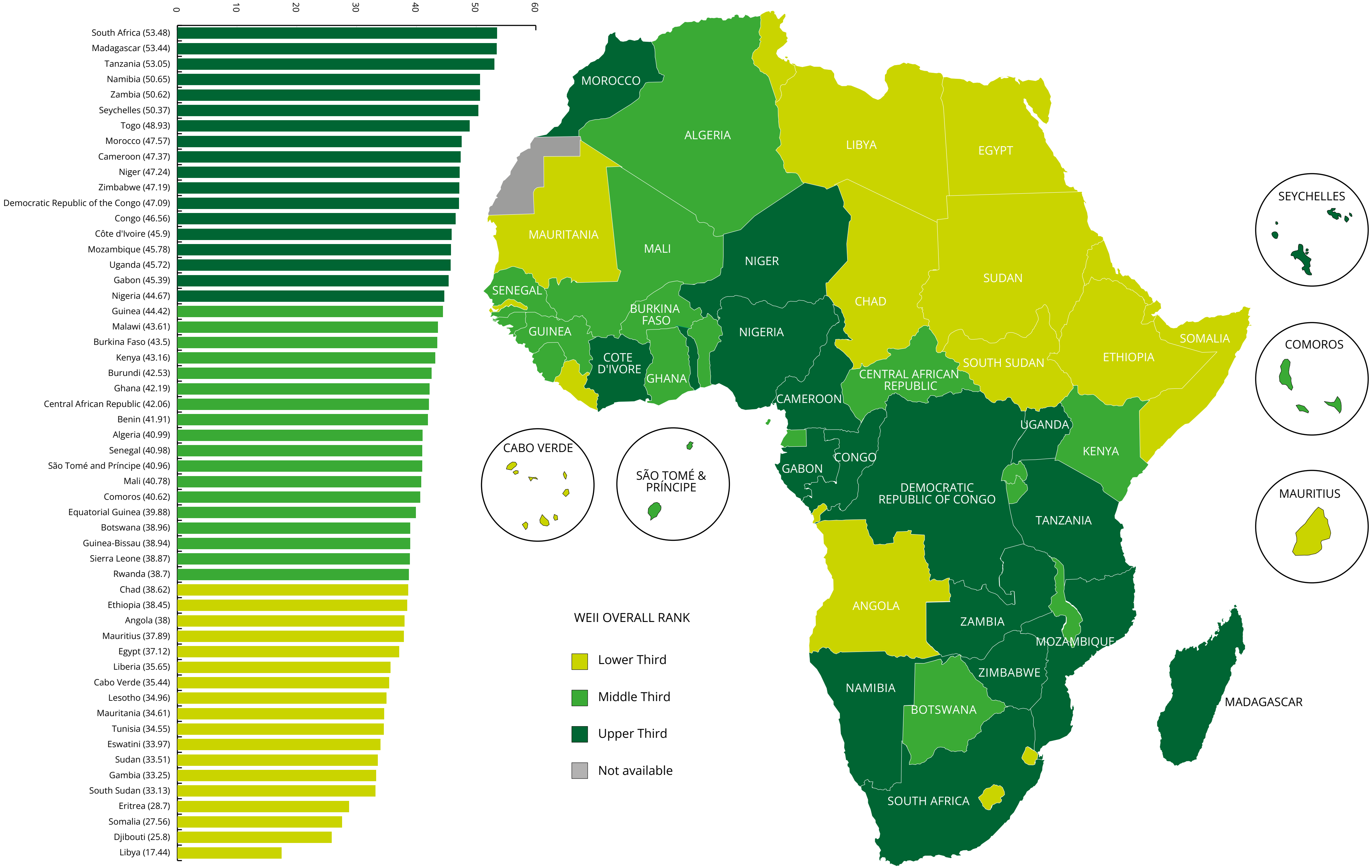
Countries in the middle third, including Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Malawi, and Algeria, demonstrate moderate performance across both wildlife assets and management indicators. These countries often show balanced but not leading performance across species richness, ecological habitats, and protected areas coverage. Incremental improvements in conservation effectiveness and protected area coverage could support stronger overall wildlife status outcomes.

Lower-ranked countries include Libya, Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea, and South Sudan. These countries generally record low scores across multiple wildlife status components, including species richness, ecological habitats, protected areas, and wildlife management effectiveness. In several cases, limited biodiversity endowment is compounded by weaker management capacity and lower protected areas coverage.

Across the continent, the Wildlife Status Sub-index reflects both ecological and institutional variation. Countries with globally significant biodiversity, such as Madagascar, Tanzania, and the Congo Basin countries, achieve strong scores primarily due to their wildlife assets and ecological habitats. Others, including South Africa and Namibia, combine strong wildlife assets with comparatively effective management systems and protected area coverage. These results highlight the **importance of both biodiversity endowment and effective conservation management in shaping overall wildlife status outcomes.**

As noted in Version 1 of the WEII, there are important indicators that are not yet fully captured in the Wildlife Status Sub-index. These include, for example, detailed data on the number of animals of each species within countries and information on the actual implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The African Leadership University School of Wildlife Conservation (ALU SOWC) is working to establish Expert Groups to support the provision of such data and other important indicators. This will help improve the accuracy and completeness of the Wildlife Status Sub-index and improve its ability to reflect wildlife status in reality and in relation to the broader wildlife economy in future iterations of the WEII.

Figure 9: Wildlife Status Sub-index (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index

The Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index assesses the governance, institutional, and economic conditions that support investment in the wildlife economy. Scores range from 22.03 to 78.05, with Seychelles ranking first (78.05), followed by Mauritius (73.96), Botswana (69.29), Ghana (66.32), South Africa (66.00), and Namibia (65.95). These countries demonstrate consistently strong performance across multiple enabling environment dimensions, including ease of doing business, public sector capacity, property rights, and security and stability.

A clear concentration of high-performing countries is observed among island states and several southern and eastern African countries. Seychelles and Mauritius stand out across nearly all categories. Seychelles ranks first in investment safety (88.10), public sector capacity (77.44), anti-corruption (93.98), and security and stability (93.19), reflecting a highly stable and predictable investment environment. Mauritius ranks first in ease of doing business (75.34), business operations (80.24), access to finances (79.37), and labour market (81.52). These results reflect strong institutional frameworks, efficient regulatory systems, and well-developed financial sectors.

Southern African countries also perform strongly. Botswana ranks first in property rights (86.77) and second in security and stability (87.78), while Namibia ranks first in rule of law (80.15). South Africa ranks first in infrastructure (85.17) and access to markets (69.98). These results reflect comparatively strong governance institutions, legal systems, and infrastructure networks that support investment activity. Ghana also performs consistently well, ranking highly across rule of law (79.94), public sector capacity (71.03), and security and stability (82.55).

Several west and east African countries also demonstrate strong performance. Cabo Verde ranks first in social inclusion (82.09) and performs strongly across public sector capacity (66.89), anti-corruption (81.68), and property rights (76.89). Rwanda ranks highly in ease of doing business (66.46), business operations (74.93), and anti-corruption (73.82), reflecting strong regulatory performance and institutional effectiveness. Senegal, Kenya, and Benin also rank in the upper third, supported by relatively strong governance frameworks, labour markets, and market access indicators.

In contrast, countries in the lower third of the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index include Somalia (22.03), South Sudan (24.26), Sudan (26.09), Eritrea (27.22), and Central African Republic (31.26). These countries generally record low scores across multiple enabling environment categories, including public sector capacity, property rights, rule of law, and access to markets. Lower scores in security and stability and anti-corruption indicators also contribute to weaker overall performance.

The results highlight the importance of governance quality, institutional capacity, and economic infrastructure in shaping investment-enabling environments. Countries that perform strongly across rule of law, anti-corruption, property rights, and infrastructure tend to achieve higher overall Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index scores. For example, Namibia, Mauritius, Botswana, and Seychelles rank in the upper third across all three enabling environment categories.

The Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index reflects substantial variation across African countries. While several countries demonstrate strong governance, institutional capacity, and investor protection, many others face structural constraints related to governance effectiveness, financial access, infrastructure, and stability. These results highlight areas where policy and institutional improvements may support stronger investment-enabling conditions for the wildlife economy.

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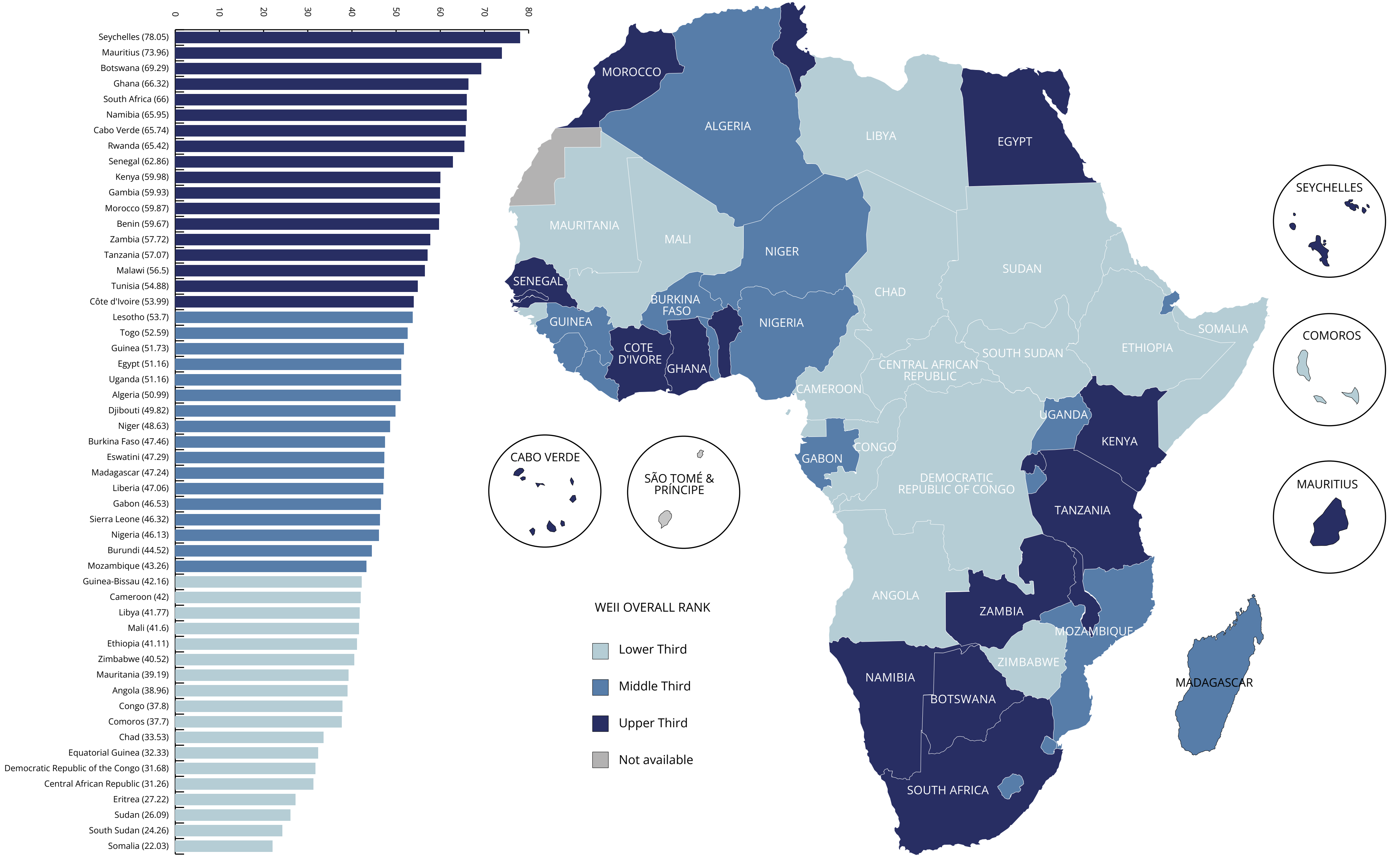
Figure 10: Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Relationship between the Wildlife Status and Investment-enabling Environment Sub-indices

The WEII v2 shows a positive correlation between the Wildlife Status and Investment-enabling Environment sub-indices (Figure 11). This **indicates a modest positive association between wildlife status and investment-enabling conditions.** Countries with stronger wildlife status tend, on average, to have somewhat stronger investment-enabling environments, although the relationship is not strong and there is considerable variation across countries.

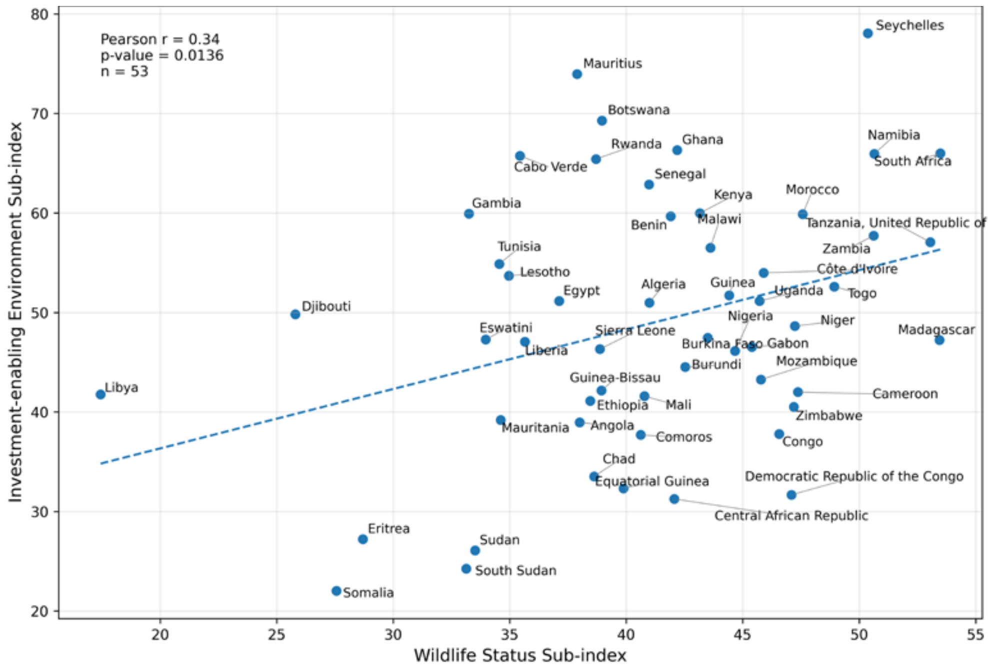
Several countries demonstrate strong performance across both sub-indices. Seychelles ranks highly in both Wildlife Status (50.37) and Investment-enabling Environment (78.05), reflecting both strong wildlife management and highly favourable governance and investment conditions. Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia also perform strongly in both sub-indices. These countries combine relatively strong wildlife assets and management systems with comparatively strong institutional capacity, governance, and investment conditions.

However, the results also highlight important differences between wildlife endowment and investment readiness. Some countries achieve high Wildlife Status scores but lower Investment-enabling Environment scores. For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (47.09 Wildlife Status, 31.68 Investment-enabling Environment) and Congo (46.56, 37.80) demonstrate strong wildlife assets and ecological habitats but weaker investment-enabling conditions. Similarly, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea perform relatively well in Wildlife Status but rank in the lower third for the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index.

Some countries achieve strong investment-enabling conditions despite lower wildlife status scores. Mauritius ranks second in the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index (73.96) but ranks in the lower third for Wildlife Status (37.89). Cabo Verde (35.44, 65.74), Rwanda (38.70, 65.42), and Gambia (33.25, 59.93) show similar patterns. These countries demonstrate relatively strong governance, institutional capacity, and investment safety despite more limited wildlife assets, as measured by the Wildlife Status Sub-Index.

The modest correlation between the two sub-indices highlights that wildlife status and investment-enabling conditions represent distinct but related dimensions of wildlife economy potential. Strong wildlife assets do not automatically correspond to strong investment-enabling environments, and strong governance and investment conditions do not necessarily correspond to high biodiversity endowment or management of wildlife assets. These results highlight the importance of considering both sub-indices when assessing overall wildlife economy investment potential.

Figure 11: The relationship between the WEII v2 Sub-indices (r=-0.34)

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Category scores

Wildlife assets

The wildlife assets category comprises five sub-categories: species richness, endemic species, ecological habitats, protected areas, and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas (18 total indicators). Together, **these indicators reflect the underlying ecological foundation that supports wildlife economies across Africa.**

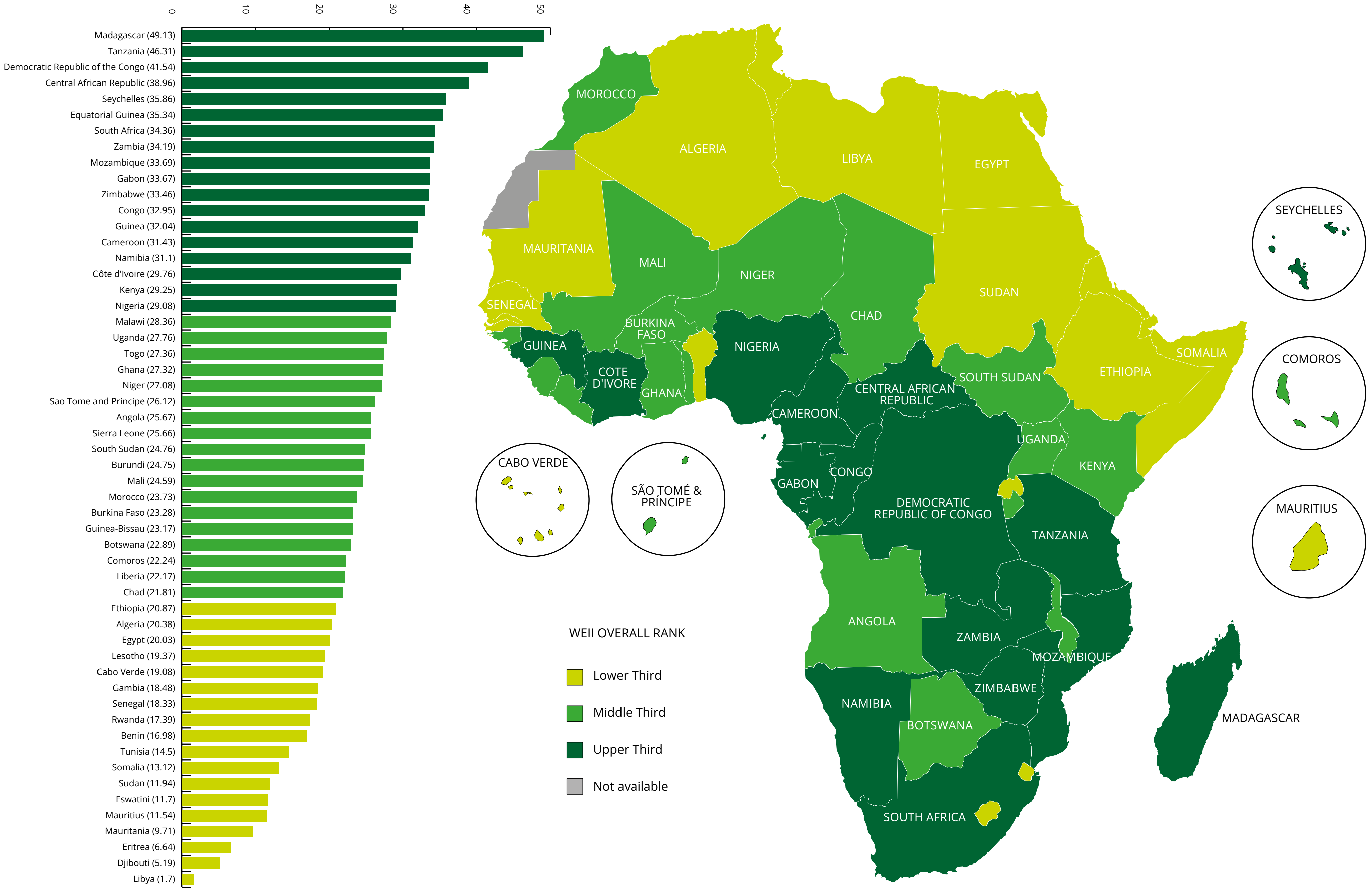
Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 24.77 out of 100. This indicates that, overall, African countries are achieving approx. one quarter of the potential score under the indicators included. While this reflects the presence of globally important biodiversity across the continent, it also suggests that there is substantial room to bolster the conservation, protection, and documentation of wildlife assets in many countries.

Madagascar (49.13) ranks first in this category, followed by Tanzania (46.31), Democratic Republic of the Congo (41.54), Central African Republic (38.96), and Seychelles (35.86). These countries benefit from strong species richness, significant ecological habitats, and, in several cases, high levels of endemic species. Their rankings reflect the global ecological importance of tropical forests, island ecosystems, and savannah landscapes. At the other end of the ranking, Libya (1.7) records the lowest score, with Djibouti (5.19), Eritrea (6.64), and Mauritania (9.71) also scoring relatively low. This reflects more limited wildlife asset scores under the indicators included, often associated with arid environments or constrained ecological diversity.

Looking at the individual sub-categories, ecological habitats and species richness make strong contributions overall, with average scores of 28.92 and 26.13 respectively. In contrast, endemic species has a much lower average score of 4.58, reflecting that unique species are concentrated in relatively few countries, particularly island and forest ecosystems. Protected areas also show a relatively low average score of 15.56, indicating that formal protection of wildlife habitats remains uneven across the continent. Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas have the highest average at 48.57, suggesting stronger performance in protecting some of the most critical ecological sites.

These results highlight Africa's globally significant wildlife assets, while also pointing to opportunities to expand conservation coverage and long-term protection. Figure 12 presents the scores and rankings based on the wildlife assets category.

Figure 12: Wildlife assets (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Wildlife management

The wildlife management category assesses the strength of wildlife governance systems across Africa. It consists of two sub-categories: wildlife legal framework and wildlife management effectiveness (42 total indicators)**.** Together, **these indicators reflect the extent to which countries have established appropriate laws, policies, and institutional systems to conserve wildlife and manage wildlife resources sustainably.**

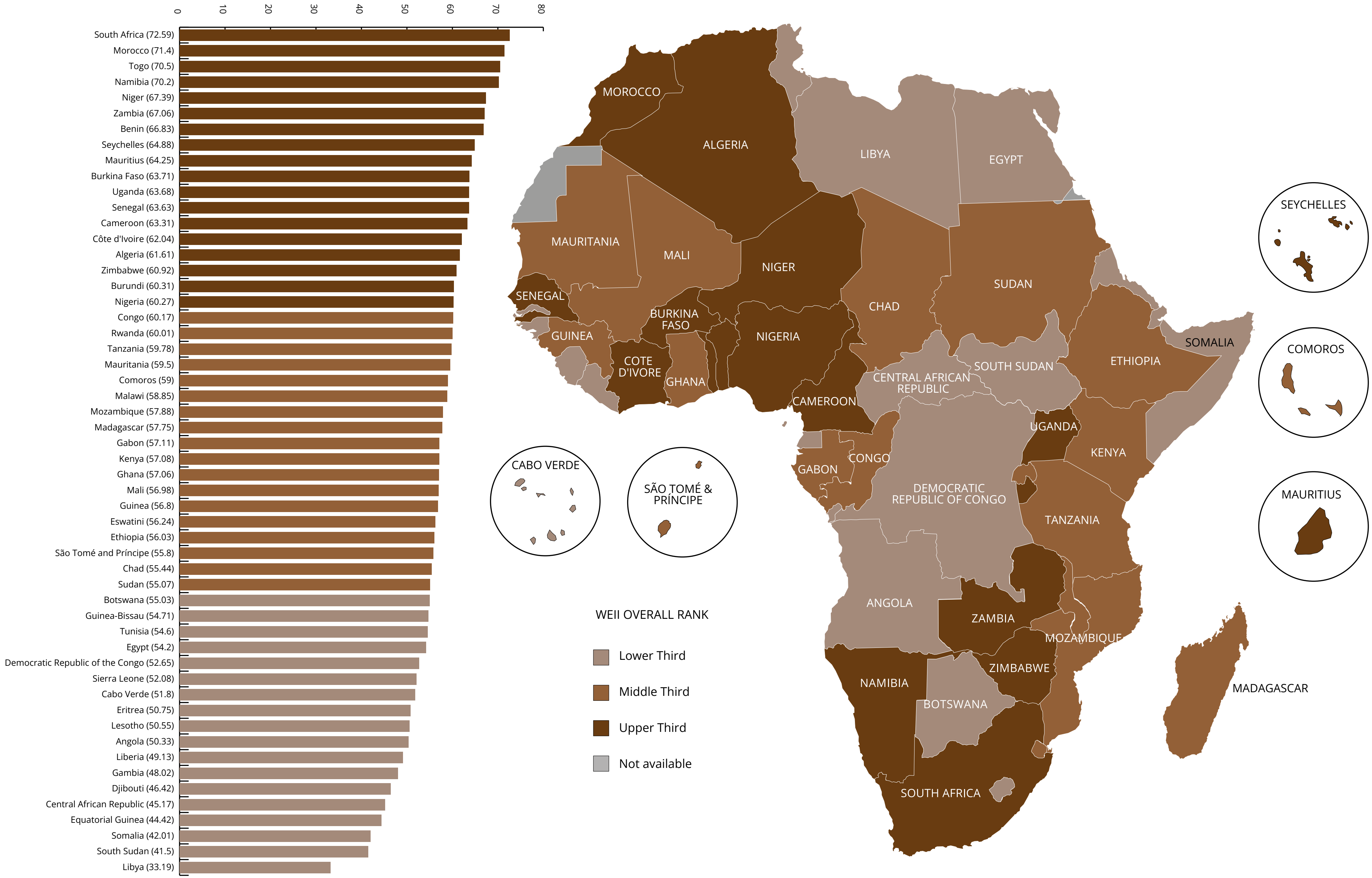
Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 57.18 out of 100. This suggests that, on average, many African countries have established foundational wildlife governance structures. However, the overall score also indicates that there remains meaningful scope to further enhance implementation, institutional coordination, and practical management outcomes.

South Africa (72.59) ranks first in this category, followed by Morocco (71.4), Togo (70.5), Namibia (70.2), and Niger (67.39). These countries demonstrate relatively strong legal frameworks and management systems that support wildlife conservation and regulation. Their performance reflects sustained investment in wildlife governance, regulatory clarity, and institutional capacity. At the lower end of the ranking, Libya (33.19) records the lowest score, followed by South Sudan (41.5), Somalia (42.01), and Equatorial Guinea (44.42). These results point to more limited wildlife governance capacity under the indicators included, which may affect the ability to manage wildlife resources effectively.

Looking at the two sub-categories, wildlife legal framework has a higher continental average score of 61.72. This indicates that many countries have established formal legal structures to support wildlife conservation. In contrast, wildlife management effectiveness has a lower average score of 52.64, suggesting that implementation and operational capacity remain more constrained. This gap between legal frameworks and management effectiveness highlights an important distinction between establishing policies and ensuring their effective execution.

These results suggest that wildlife governance systems are present across much of the continent, but their effectiveness varies. Strengthening implementation capacity, institutional coordination, and operational management could help ensure that legal frameworks translate more consistently into effective conservation outcomes and sustainable wildlife economies. Figure 13 presents the scores and rankings based on the wildlife management category.

Figure 13: Wildlife management (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Ease of doing business

The ease of doing business category evaluates the overall conditions that enable private sector activity and investment. It consists of four sub-categories: business operations, access to finances (and other resources), access to markets, and anti-corruption (103 total indicators). Together, **these indicators reflect the practical environment in which businesses operate, grow, and invest.**

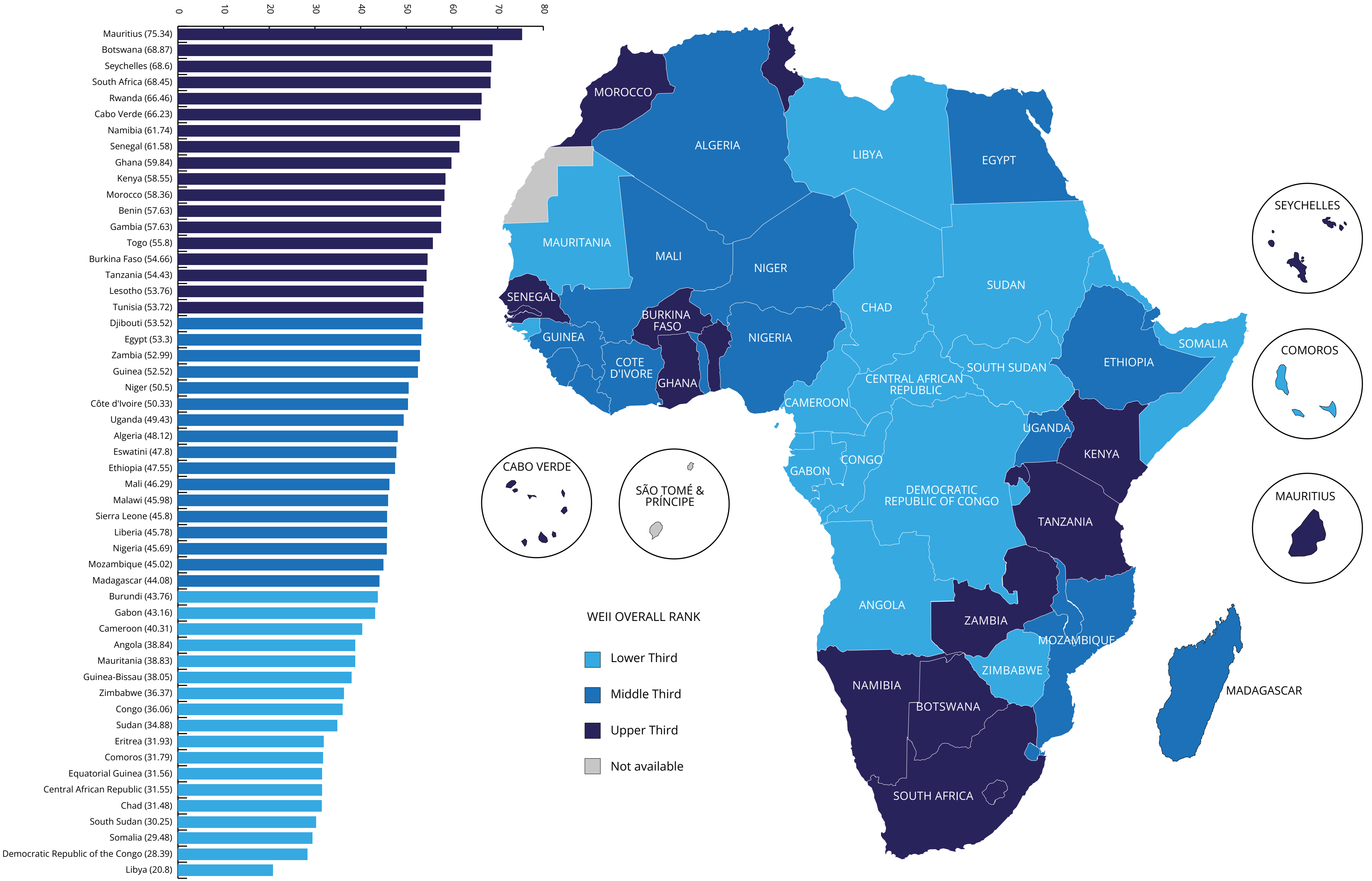
Across 53 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 48.00 out of 100. This suggests that, on average, many African countries have established foundational conditions to support business activity, but important constraints remain. The overall score indicates that while some countries provide relatively supportive environments, others face structural challenges that may affect business formation, expansion, and investment.

Mauritius (75.34) ranks first in this category, followed by Botswana (68.87), Seychelles (68.6), South Africa (68.45), and Rwanda (66.46). These countries demonstrate comparatively strong business environments across multiple dimensions, including efficient business processes, stronger financial access, and relatively robust governance systems. Their performance reflects more favourable conditions for enterprise activity under the indicators included. At the lower end, Libya (20.8) records the lowest score, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (28.39), Somalia (29.48), South Sudan (30.25), and Chad (31.48). These results point to more limited business-enabling conditions, including constraints related to finance, governance, and market access.

Looking at the four sub-categories, business operations has the highest continental average score at 60.01. This suggests that many countries have made progress in establishing formal procedures and regulatory systems that allow businesses to operate. Access to finances has a lower average score of 48.04, indicating more limited availability of capital and financial services in many countries. Access to markets has an average score of 43.55, reflecting constraints related to connectivity, and integration into regional and global markets. Anti-corruption has an average score of 46.09, suggesting that governance and transparency remain areas of variation across countries.

These results indicate that while business environments exist across much of the continent, their strength and effectiveness vary. Continued improvements in financial access, governance, and market connectivity could help enhance the overall business environment and support broader investment in the wildlife economy. Figure 14 presents the scores and rankings based on the ease of doing business category.

Figure 14: Ease of doing business (v2, 2025) rankings and scores

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Public sector capacity

The public sector capacity category evaluates the ability of governments to support economic activity, deliver public services, and maintain institutional stability. It consists of four sub-categories: rule of law, infrastructure, labour market, and social inclusion (90 total indicators). **These factors play an important role in enabling sustainable investment, including in the wildlife economy, by shaping the broader institutional and operational environment.**

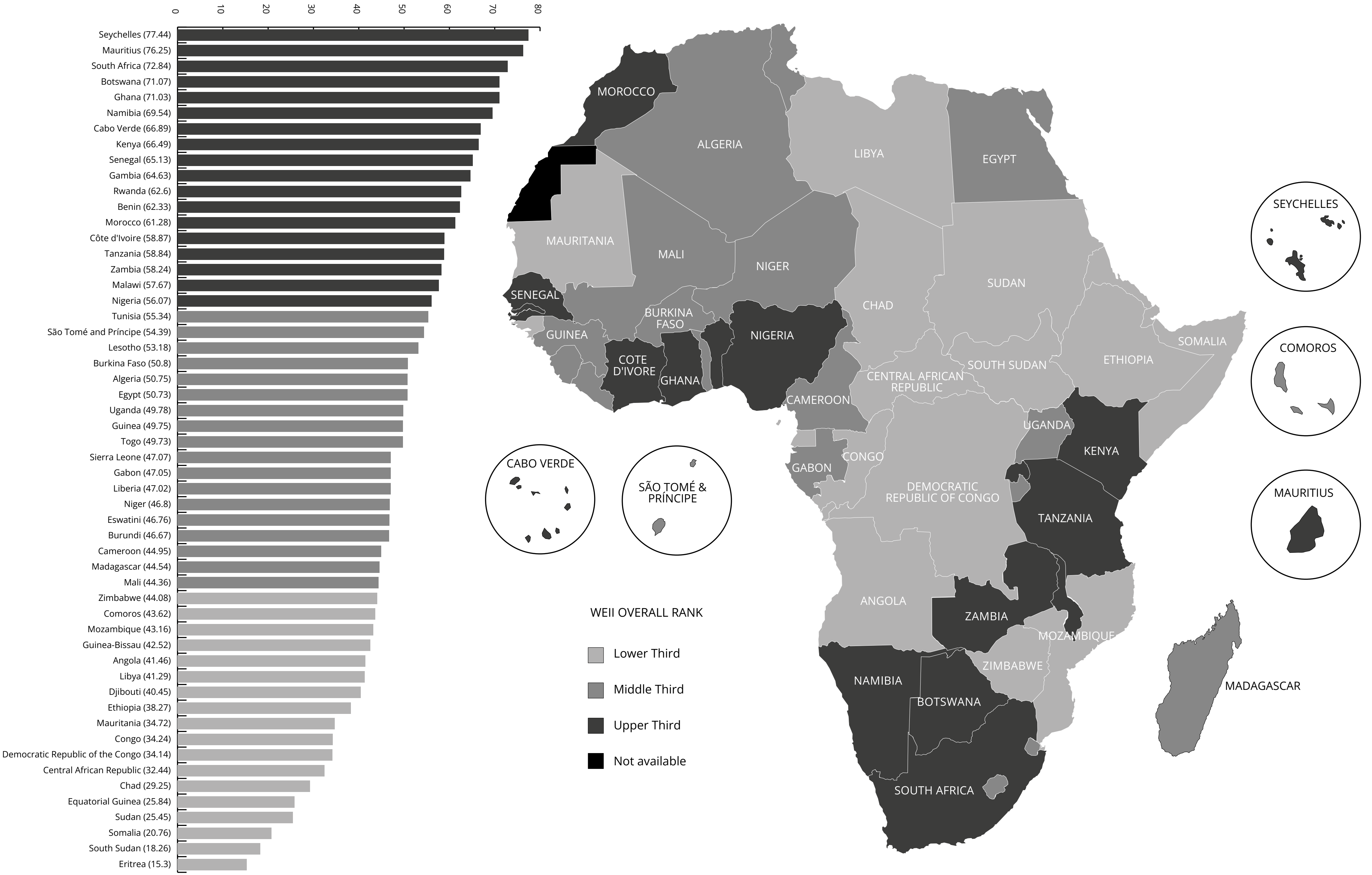
Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 49.30 out of 100. This indicates that, on average, public sector capacity across Africa remains moderate under the indicators included. While many countries have established functioning institutional and service systems, the overall score highlights continued variation in government capacity, infrastructure provision, and social systems.

Seychelles (77.44) ranks first in this category, followed by Mauritius (76.25), South Africa (72.84), Botswana (71.07), and Ghana (71.03). These countries demonstrate relatively strong performance across multiple dimensions, including institutional stability, infrastructure availability, labour market functioning, and social inclusion. Their performance reflects more favourable public sector conditions that can support investment and economic development. At the lower end, Eritrea (15.3), South Sudan (18.26), Somalia (20.76), Sudan (25.45), and Equatorial Guinea (25.84) record the lowest scores, reflecting more limited public sector capacity under the indicators included.

Looking at the sub-categories, social inclusion records the highest continental average score at 56.28, suggesting relatively stronger performance in areas such as access to opportunities, equality, and social systems. The labour market also performs comparatively well, with an average score of 54.13, indicating the presence of active labour systems in many countries. In contrast, rule of law has a lower average score of 45.98, reflecting continued challenges related to legal systems, enforcement, and institutional effectiveness in some contexts. Infrastructure records the lowest average score at 43.88, highlighting constraints in transport, internet, and broader physical infrastructure.

These results indicate that public sector capacity across Africa provides an important foundation for economic and wildlife economy development, but remains uneven. Improving infrastructure, institutional effectiveness, and governance systems could further enhance countries' ability to support sustainable investment and conservation outcomes. Figure 15 presents the scores and rankings based on the public sector capacity category.

Figure 15: Public sector capacity (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Investment safety

The investment safety category assesses the extent to which countries provide stable and secure conditions for investment. It consists of three sub-categories: money growth, property rights, and security and stability (27 total indicators). Together, **these indicators reflect the degree to which investors can operate with confidence in the stability of financial systems, the protection of assets, and the broader security environment.**

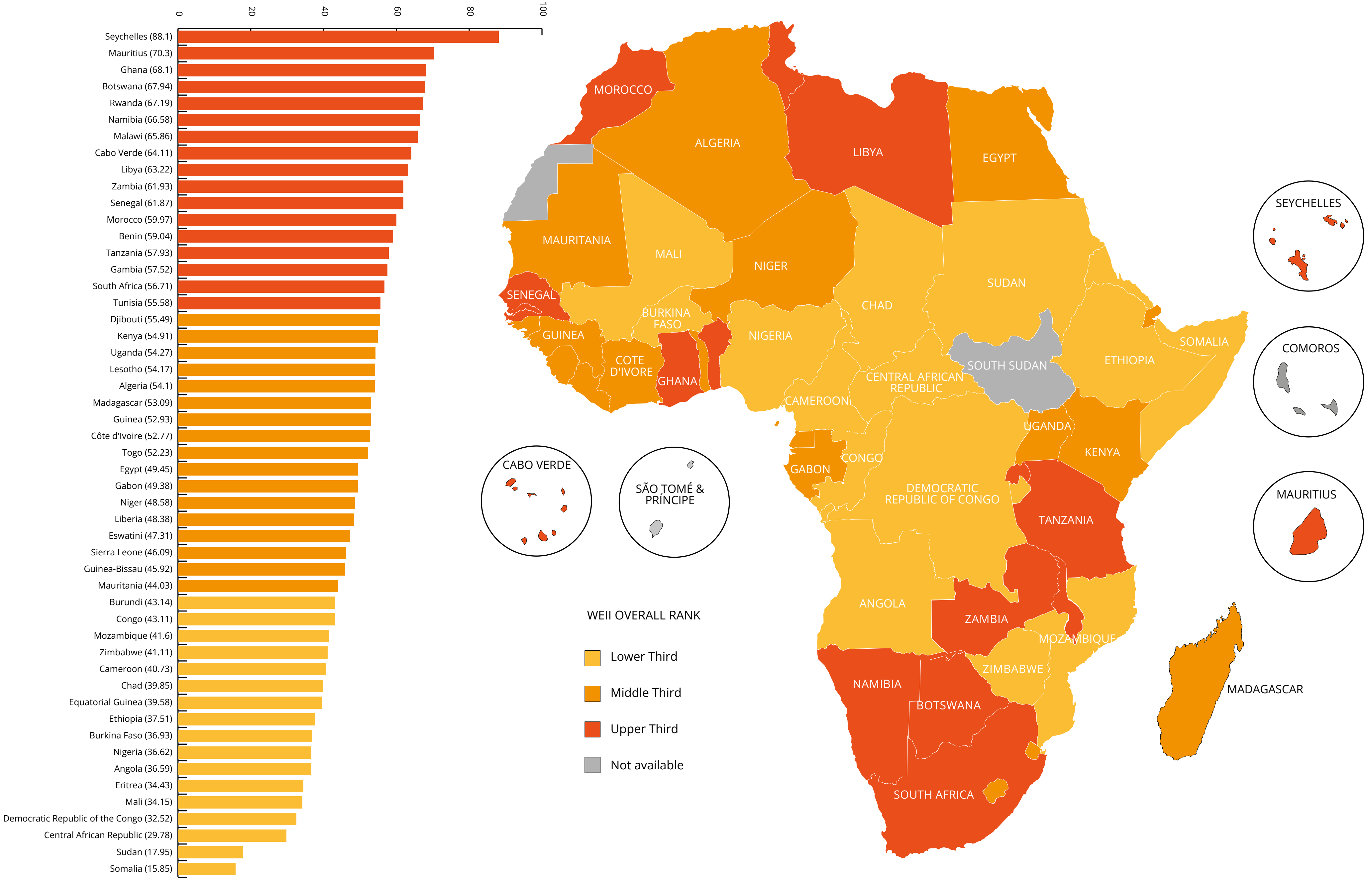
Across 51 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 50.13 out of 100. This indicates that, overall, investment safety conditions across Africa are moderate under the indicators included. While several countries provide relatively strong and stable environments, the overall average highlights continued variation in financial stability, legal protections, and security conditions.

Seychelles (88.1) ranks first in this category with a score of 88.10, followed by Mauritius (70.3), Ghana (68.1), Botswana (67.94), and Rwanda (67.19). These countries demonstrate strong performance across property rights protection, financial stability, and security indicators. Their results reflect environments that offer comparatively higher levels of predictability and investor protection. At the lower end, Somalia (15.85) records the lowest score, followed by Sudan (17.95), Central African Republic (29.78), Democratic Republic of the Congo (32.52), and Mali (34.15). These results indicate more constrained investment safety conditions under the indicators included, particularly in relation to property rights and security.

Looking at the sub-categories, security and stability has the highest continental average score at 63.94. This suggests that many countries provide a baseline level of national stability, although conditions vary significantly across countries. Property rights has a continental average of 50.61, indicating moderate levels of legal protection for assets, but with substantial differences between countries. In contrast, money growth records a lower average score of 34.08, reflecting differences across countries in economic growth and financial performance, including variations in real GDP growth and returns on assets and equity.

These results indicate that many African countries provide foundational investment safety conditions, especially in terms of stability and asset protection. However, enhancing financial stability, reinforcing property rights, and maintaining secure operating environments will remain important for supporting long-term investment, including in the wildlife economy. Figure 16 presents the scores and rankings based on the investment safety category.

Figure 16: Investment safety (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Sub-category scores

Wildlife assets

The wildlife assets category consists of five sub-categories: species richness, endemic species, ecological habitats, protected areas, and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. Together, these sub-categories are represented by a total of 18 indicators.

Species richness

The species richness sub-category measures the diversity of wildlife within each country, based on two indicators: the number of animal species and the number of plant species. Together, **these indicators reflect the ecological diversity that forms the foundation of wildlife ecosystems and supports wildlife-based economic activities.**

Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 26.13 out of 100. This indicates that, while Africa is globally recognised for its biodiversity, high species richness is concentrated in a relatively small number of countries. Many countries have moderate or lower species richness scores under the indicators included, reflecting differences in ecological zones, climate, and habitat diversity.

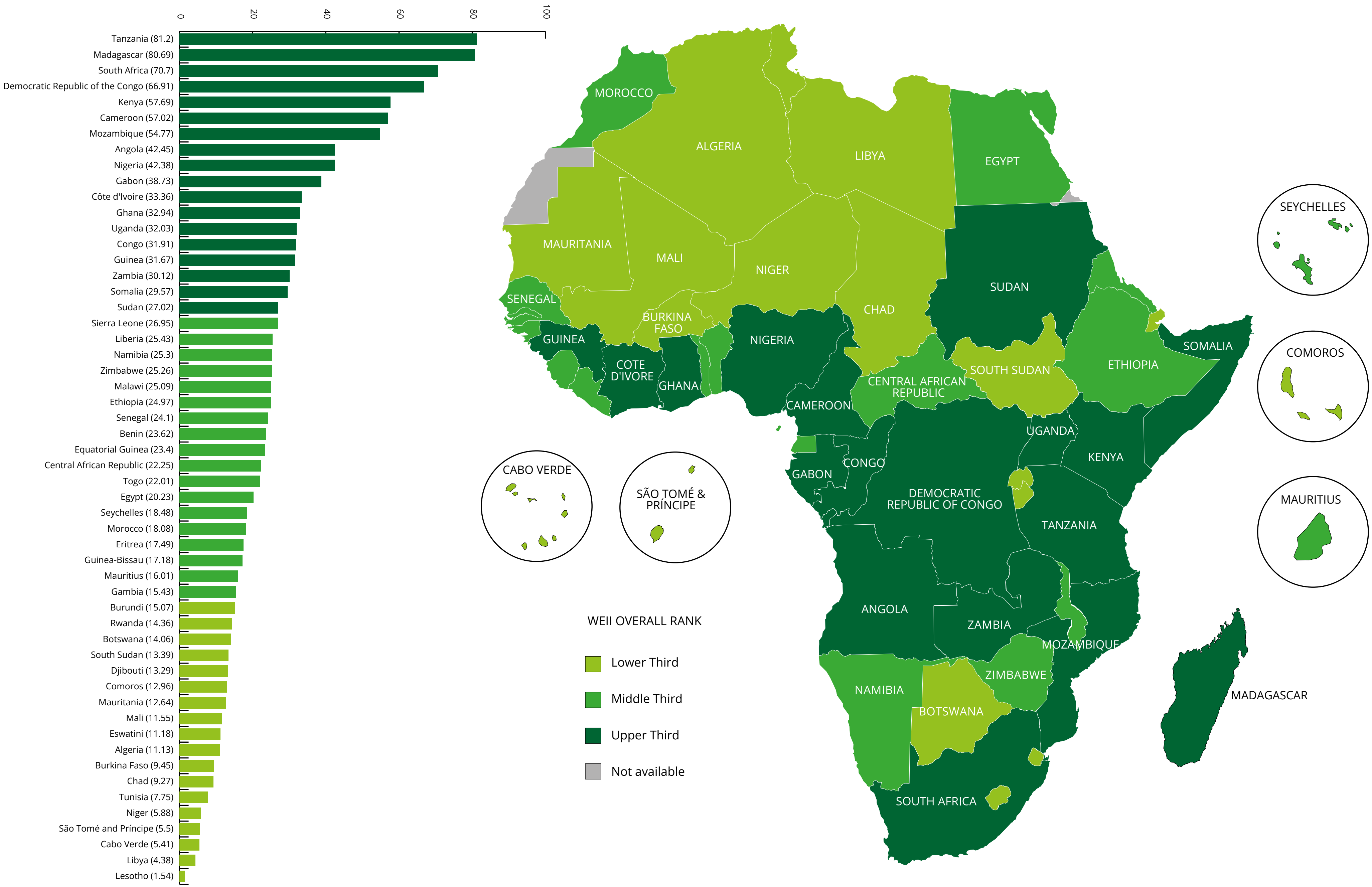
Tanzania ranks first in this sub-category with a score of 81.20, followed closely by Madagascar (80.69) and South Africa (70.70). These countries host exceptionally high numbers of both animal and plant species. Tanzania records approx. 5,772 animal species and 3,457 plant species, while Madagascar stands out globally with over 5,000 plant species and more than 4,300 animal species. South Africa also performs strongly, reflecting its wide range of ecosystems, from savannah and grassland to forest and coastal environments. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (66.91) and Kenya (57.69) complete the top five, supported by extensive forest systems and diverse ecological landscapes.

Several other countries, including Cameroon, Mozambique, Angola, Nigeria, and Gabon, also rank in the upper third. These countries benefit from tropical and subtropical ecosystems that support high levels of biodiversity.

At the lower end of the ranking, Lesotho (1.54) records the lowest score, followed by Libya (4.38), Cabo Verde (5.41), São Tomé and Príncipe (5.5), and Niger (5.88). These lower scores reflect more limited species diversity under the indicators included, often associated with arid climates, smaller land areas, or more geographically constrained ecosystems.

The results highlight Africa's exceptional biodiversity, while also showing that species richness varies significantly across countries. Countries with higher species richness possess important ecological assets that support conservation, tourism, and wildlife-based economic opportunities. Figure 17 presents the scores and rankings based on the species richness sub-category.

Figure 17: Species richness (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Endemic species

The endemic species sub-category (two indicators) measures the number of vertebrate and plant species that are unique to each country and found nowhere else in the world. These species represent irreplaceable ecological assets and are of particular importance for global biodiversity conservation. Countries with higher levels of endemism often hold globally significant conservation value, as the loss of these species would represent permanent global biodiversity loss.

Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 4.58 out of 100. This relatively low average reflects the fact that endemic species are highly concentrated in a small number of countries, rather than evenly distributed across the continent. Many countries have few or no endemic species under the indicators included, while a small number of countries account for a large share of Africa's endemic biodiversity.

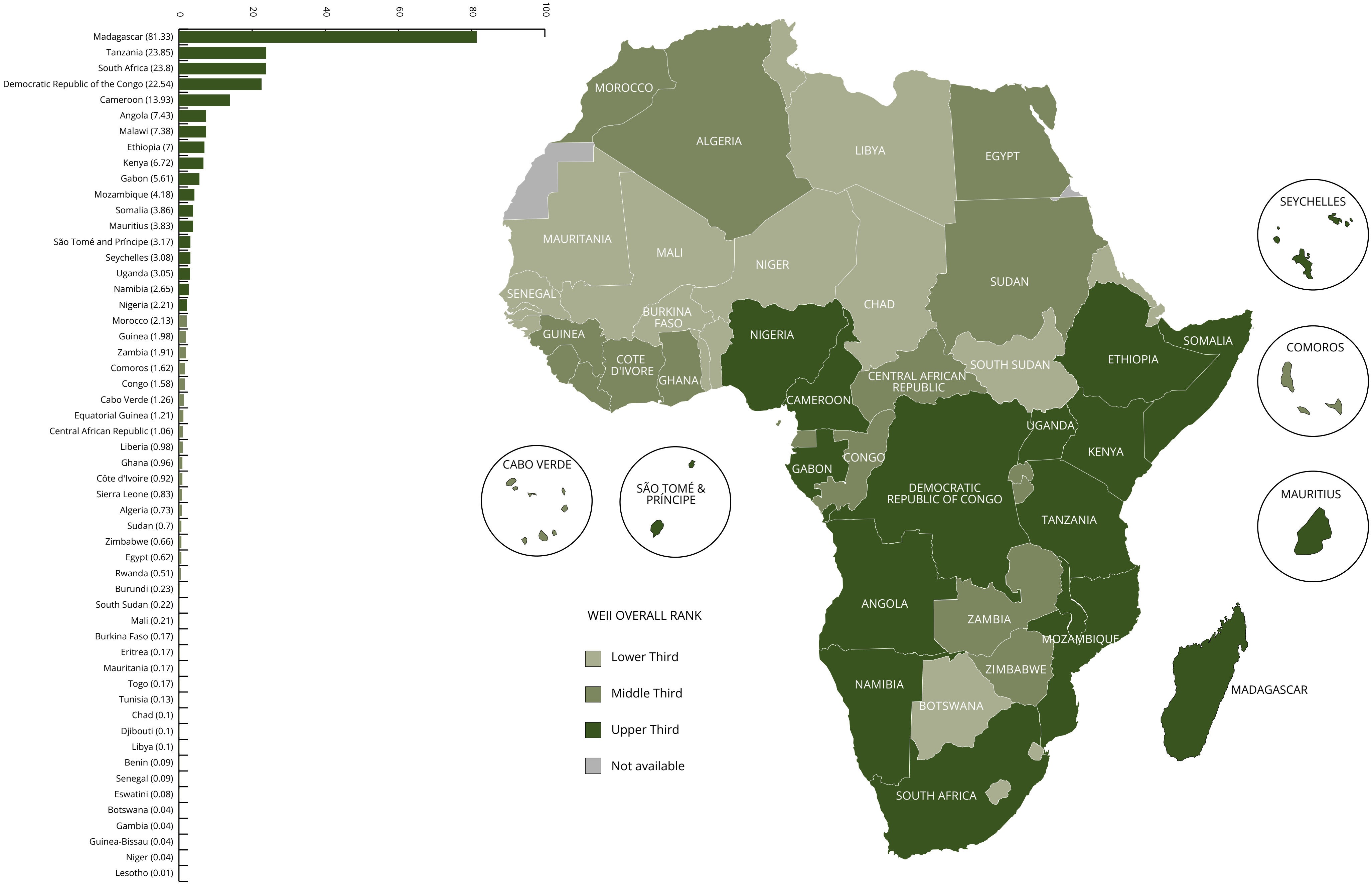
Madagascar ranks first by a wide margin, with a score of 81.33. This reflects its exceptional level of endemism, with over 1,100 endemic vertebrate species and approx. 2,900 endemic plant species. Madagascar's long geographic isolation has allowed unique species to evolve independently, making it one of the most important biodiversity hotspots globally. Tanzania (23.85) ranks second, followed closely by South Africa (23.8) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (22.54). These countries benefit from diverse ecosystems, including forests, mountains, and isolated habitats that support species found nowhere else.

Other strong performers include Cameroon, Angola, Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Gabon, all of which host important endemic species populations linked to forest ecosystems and varied ecological landscapes. Island nations such as Mauritius, Seychelles, and São Tomé and Príncipe also rank in the upper third, reflecting the well-established link between geographic isolation and endemism.

At the lower end of the ranking, Lesotho (0.01) records the lowest score, with several other countries, including Botswana (0.04), Niger (0.04), and Guinea-Bissau (0.04), also recording very low levels of endemism under the indicators included.

The results highlight the global importance of certain African countries in conserving unique species, while also emphasising that endemic biodiversity is highly concentrated geographically. Figure 18 presents the scores and rankings based on the endemic species sub-category.

Figure 18: Endemic species (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Ecological habitats

The ecological habitats sub-category assesses the extent and condition of natural ecosystems that support wildlife. It includes six indicators: forest area, above-ground forest biomass, mountain green cover, wetlands, permanent lakes and rivers, and mangrove area. Together, **these indicators reflect the availability and quality of habitats that are essential for sustaining wildlife populations and broader ecosystem functioning.**

Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 28.92 out of 100. This indicates that, while many countries retain important natural habitats, there is considerable variation in the extent, quality, and diversity of ecosystems across the continent. Strong ecological habitats provide the foundation for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem resilience, and wildlife-based economic activities such as tourism.

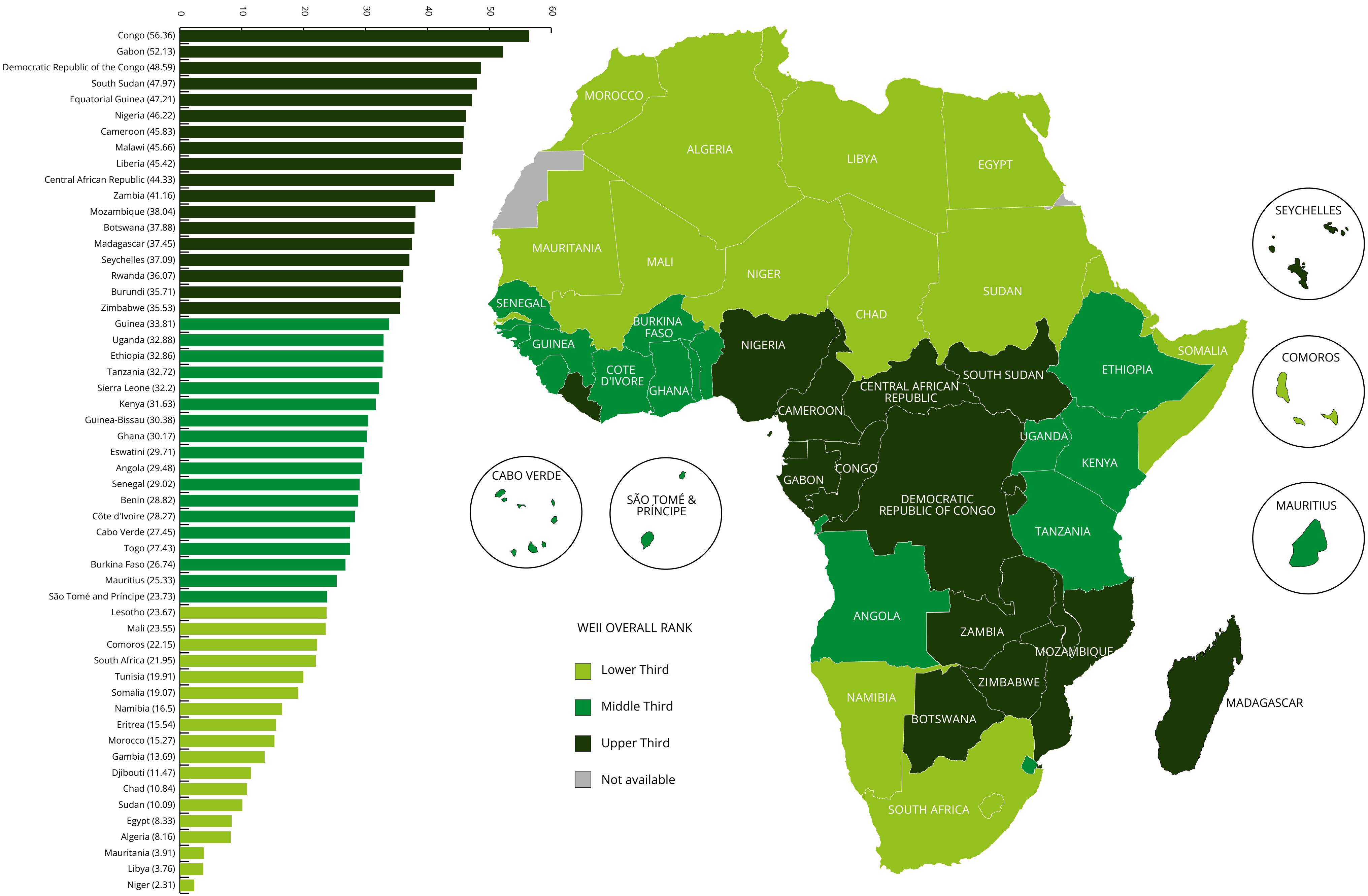
Congo (56.36) ranks first in this sub-category, followed by Gabon (52.13) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (48.59). These countries benefit from extensive tropical forest systems, high forest biomass, and significant wetland coverage. South Sudan and Equatorial Guinea also rank among the top performers, reflecting the presence of large natural ecosystems, including wetlands and forest habitats. Other strong performers include Nigeria, Cameroon, Liberia, and Zambia, which benefit from a combination of forests, freshwater systems, and coastal ecosystems such as mangroves.

Several central and west African countries perform particularly well due to the presence of the Congo Basin, which represents one of the largest continuous tropical forest regions in the world. These ecosystems support high biodiversity and play a critical role in maintaining ecological stability.

At the lower end of the ranking, Niger (2.31) records the lowest score, followed by Libya (3.76), Mauritania (3.91), Algeria (8.16), and Egypt (8.33). These lower scores reflect more limited ecological habitats under the indicators included, often associated with arid environments, desert landscapes, and lower forest and freshwater coverage.

The results highlight the key importance of intact forests, wetlands, freshwater systems, and coastal ecosystems in supporting wildlife. Countries with extensive and well-conserved ecological habitats are better positioned to sustain biodiversity and support wildlife-based economic opportunities. Figure 19 presents the scores and rankings based on the ecological habitats sub-category.

Figure 19: Ecological habitats (v2, 2025) rankings and scores

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Protected areas

The protected areas sub-category evaluates the extent and connectivity of designated conservation areas across terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments. It includes four indicators: terrestrial protected areas, coastal protected areas, marine protected areas, and protected areas connectivity. **These indicators reflect the degree to which countries have formally established and linked conservation areas that can support wildlife populations and ecosystem resilience.**

Across 51 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score in this sub-category is 50.13 out of 100. This suggests that, on average, African countries have established a moderate level of protected area coverage and connectivity. While many countries have designated protected areas, there remains significant variation in the scale, distribution, and ecological integration of these conservation networks.

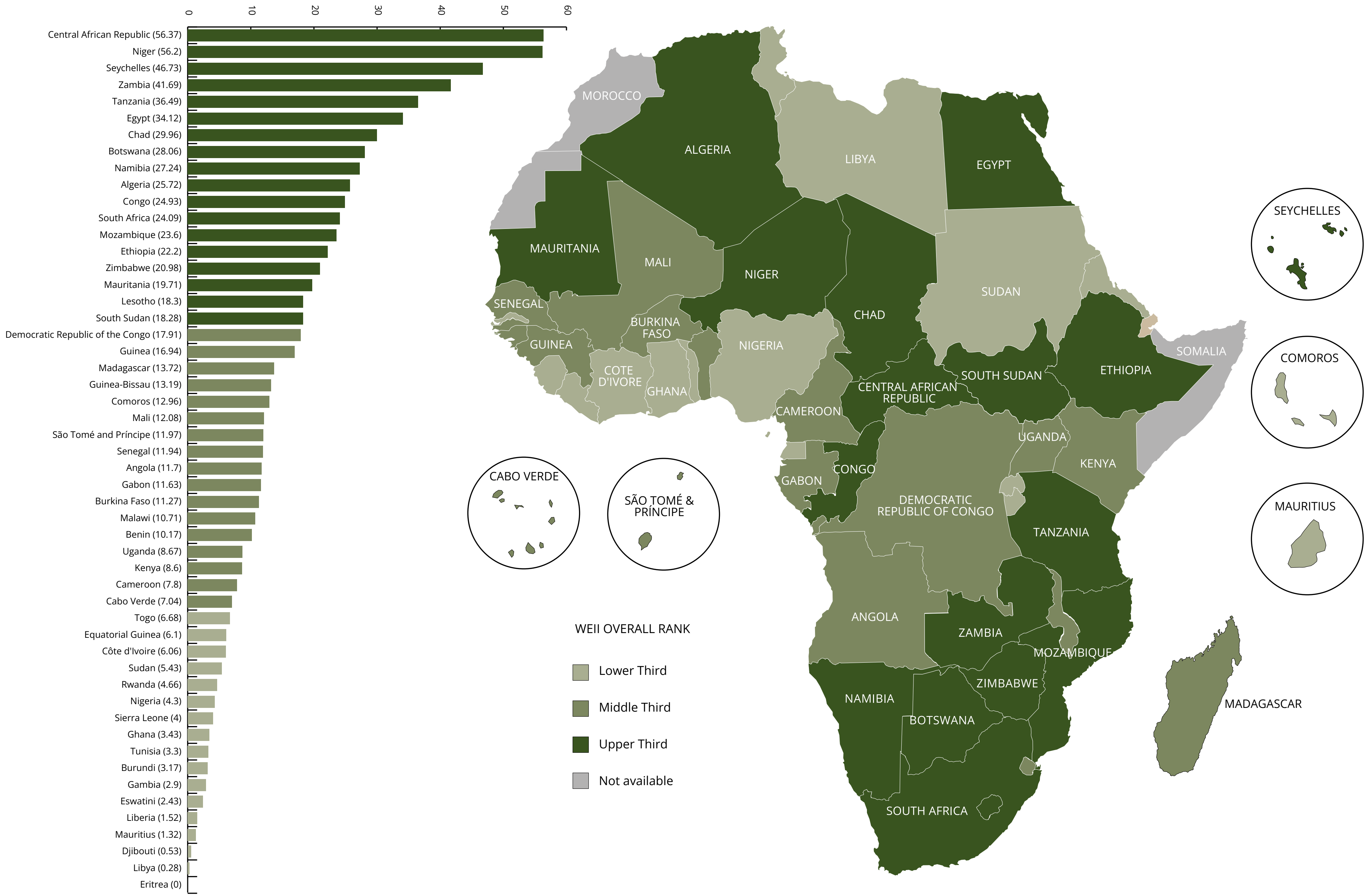
Central African Republic (56.37) ranks first in this sub-category, reflecting its extensive terrestrial protected areas, which cover large portions of intact ecosystems. Niger (56.2) ranks second, also benefiting from substantial terrestrial protected area coverage. Seychelles (46.73) ranks third, supported by its very large marine protected areas and strong connectivity, highlighting the importance of marine conservation for island nations. Zambia (41.69) and Tanzania (36.49) follow, both of which have extensive terrestrial protected areas that support diverse wildlife populations and are central to their wildlife-based economies.

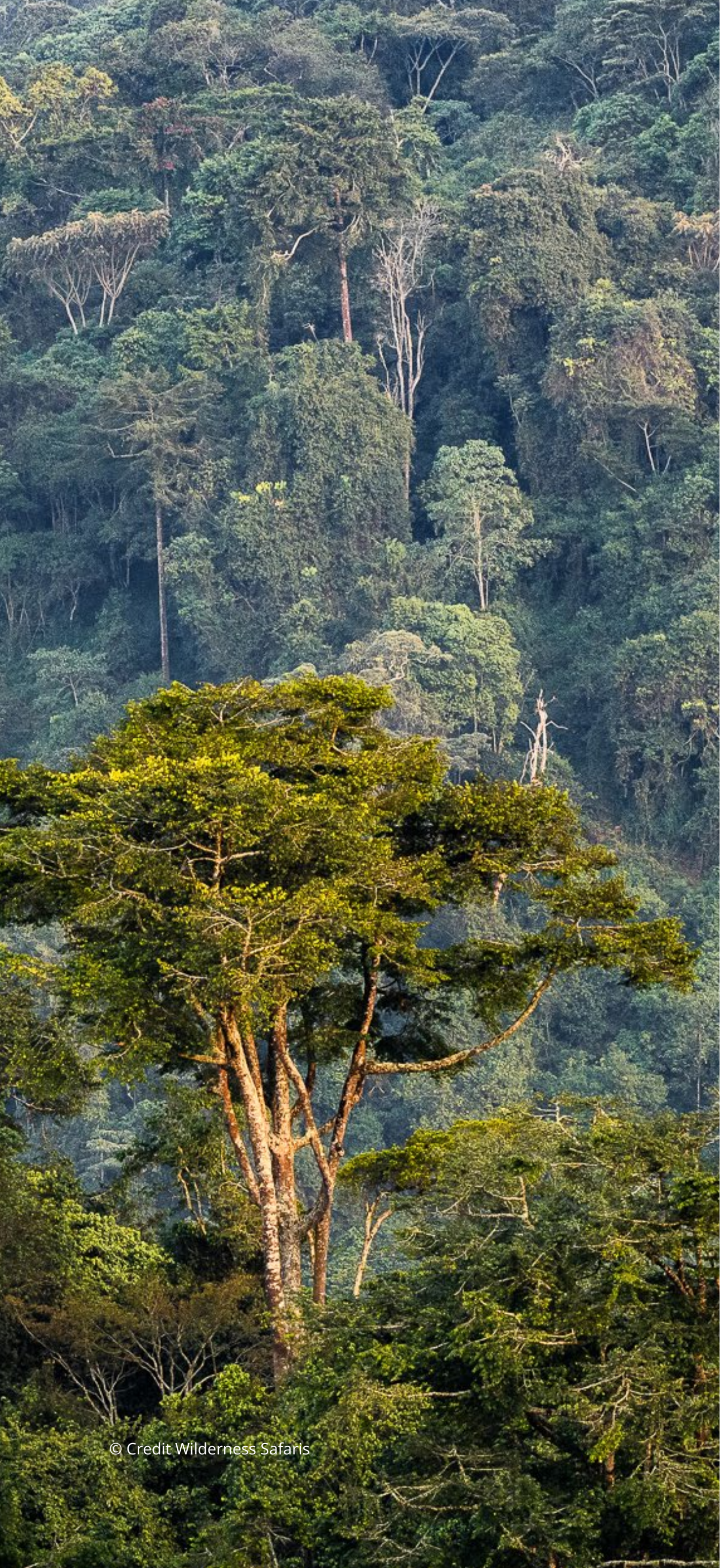
Other strong performers include Egypt, Chad, Botswana, Namibia, and Algeria. These countries benefit from large protected landscapes or, in some cases, significant coastal or marine protected areas. Countries with strong performance in this sub-category often have large conservation areas that help maintain ecological integrity and support wildlife across broader landscapes.

At the lower end of the ranking, Eritrea (0.00) records the lowest score, followed by Libya (0.28), Djibouti (0.53), Mauritius (1.32), and Liberia (1.52). Lower scores often reflect limited protected area coverage, weaker connectivity between protected areas, or less developed marine and coastal conservation frameworks.

The results highlight the importance of establishing well-connected networks of protected areas across terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems. **Expanding protected area coverage and improving connectivity can help support wildlife populations, maintain ecological processes, and enhance the long-term sustainability of wildlife economies.** Figure 20 presents the scores and rankings based on the protected areas sub-category.

Figure 20: Protected areas (v2, 2025) rankings and scores

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Key biodiversity areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas

The key biodiversity areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas sub-category assesses the extent to which sites identified as critical for biodiversity conservation are formally protected. It includes four indicators covering freshwater, terrestrial, mountain, and marine KBAs. **These areas are recognised globally as essential for the persistence of species and ecosystems, and their protection is an important component of effective biodiversity conservation.**

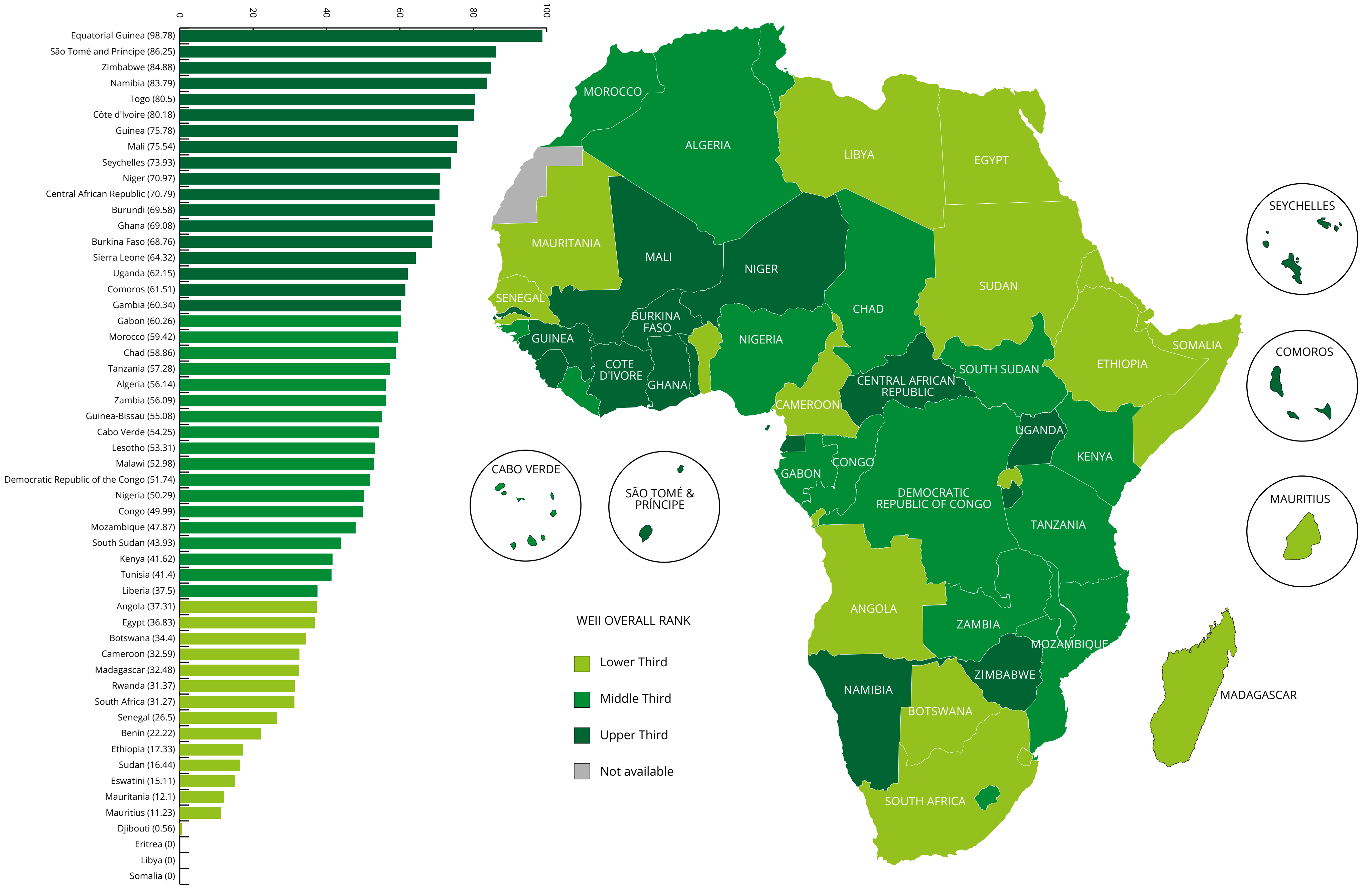
Across 54 countries, the continental average score in this sub-category is 48.57 out of 100. This indicates that, on average, approx. half of identified KBAs benefit from formal protection. While this reflects meaningful progress in protecting critical biodiversity sites, it also highlights that many KBAs across Africa remain only partially protected or unprotected. Expanding protection coverage in these areas is important to ensure the long term conservation of species, ecological processes, and ecosystem services that support wildlife economies.

Equatorial Guinea (98.78) ranks first in this sub-category, reflecting very high protection coverage across terrestrial, mountain, and marine KBAs. São Tomé and Príncipe (86.25) ranks second, supported by strong protection of marine and terrestrial KBAs. Zimbabwe (84.88) ranks third, with consistently high coverage across freshwater, terrestrial, and mountain KBAs. Namibia (83.79) and Togo (80.5) also perform strongly, reflecting broad protection of KBAs across multiple ecosystem types. Other strong performers include Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Seychelles, and Niger, demonstrating sustained efforts to protect priority biodiversity sites.

At the lower end of the ranking, Somalia, Eritrea, and Libya record scores of zero, indicating that identified KBAs are not formally covered by protected areas under the indicators included. Djibouti (0.56), Mauritius (11.23), Mauritania (12.1), and Eswatini (15.11) also record low scores, reflecting limited coverage of KBAs by protected areas or gaps in protection across key ecosystems.

The results highlight both progress and remaining gaps in protecting Africa's most important biodiversity sites. Expanding protected area coverage to include KBAs, and improving the management of these areas, can play a critical role in conserving biodiversity and supporting the long term sustainability of wildlife-based economic activities. Figure 21 presents the scores and rankings based on the key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas sub-category.

Figure 21: Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Wildlife management

The wildlife management category consists of two sub-categories: wildlife legal framework and wildlife management effectiveness. Together, these sub-categories are represented by a total of 42 indicators.

Wildlife legal framework

The wildlife legal framework sub-category evaluates the extent to which countries have established laws, policies, and institutional commitments to support wildlife conservation and sustainable use. It consists of ten indicators, including participation in international agreements such as the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the existence of national biodiversity strategies, environmental policy and regulatory strength, and legal recognition of wildlife ownership and customary rights. Together, **these indicators reflect the formal legal and policy foundations that guide wildlife conservation and management.**

Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 61.72 out of 100. This indicates that many African countries have established core legal and policy frameworks to support wildlife conservation. Participation in international environmental agreements is widespread, and most countries have adopted national biodiversity strategies and environmental regulations. However, the variation in scores also highlights differences in the strength, comprehensiveness, and implementation of these frameworks.

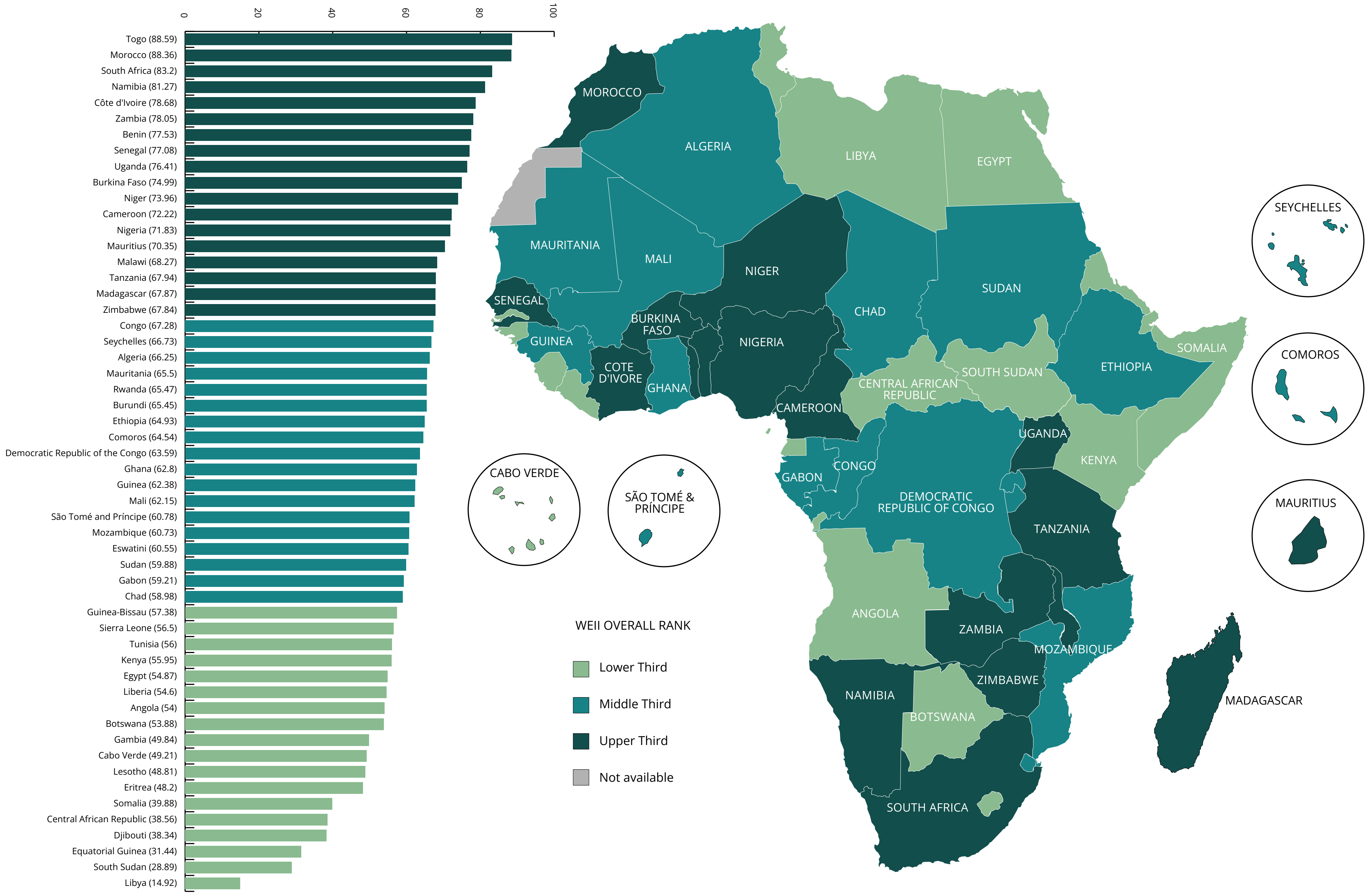
Togo (88.59) ranks first in this sub-category, followed closely by Morocco (88.36) and South Africa (83.2). Namibia (81.27) and d'Ivoire (78.68) also rank among the top performers. These countries demonstrate strong alignment with international biodiversity agreements, well-developed environmental policies, and legal structures that recognise wildlife rights and conservation priorities. Their performance reflects sustained commitment to establishing formal legal foundations for wildlife conservation. Implementation is, however, not measured in this sub-category and varies widely across the continent.

Several other countries, including Zambia, Benin, Senegal, and Uganda, also perform strongly, indicating broad progress across different regions of the continent. These results suggest that legal and policy frameworks supporting wildlife conservation are well established in many countries, though enforcement is not taken into account in the indicators used in this sub-category and varies widely.

At the lower end of the ranking, Libya (14.92) records the lowest score, followed by South Sudan (28.89), Equatorial Guinea (31.44), and Djibouti (38.34). These lower scores reflect gaps in participation in international agreements, weaker environmental policy frameworks, or limited legal recognition of wildlife rights under the indicators included.

The results show that Africa has made significant progress in establishing legal frameworks to support wildlife conservation. **Improved implementation of existing laws, enhanced legal clarity, and reinforced institutional capacity will remain important to ensure that these frameworks translate into effective conservation outcomes and sustainable wildlife economies.** Figure 22 presents the scores and rankings based on the wildlife legal framework sub-category.

Figure 22: Wildlife legal framework (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Wildlife management effectiveness

The wildlife management effectiveness sub-category evaluates how effectively countries implement conservation policies and manage wildlife resources in practice. It consists of 32 indicators covering enforcement of environmental policies, protected area management effectiveness, biodiversity protection, climate and environmental management, wildlife trade enforcement, land and ecosystem condition, and participation in environmental agreements. **These indicators reflect both institutional performance and real-world conservation outcomes across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments.**

Across 54 countries, the continental average score is 52.64 out of 100. This indicates a moderate level of wildlife management effectiveness overall. On average, countries have established systems and programmes to support wildlife conservation, including environmental enforcement, protected area management, and participation in international environmental agreements. However, the average score also suggests that there is **significant room to improve implementation, improve ecosystem management, and reduce environmental pressures affecting wildlife.**

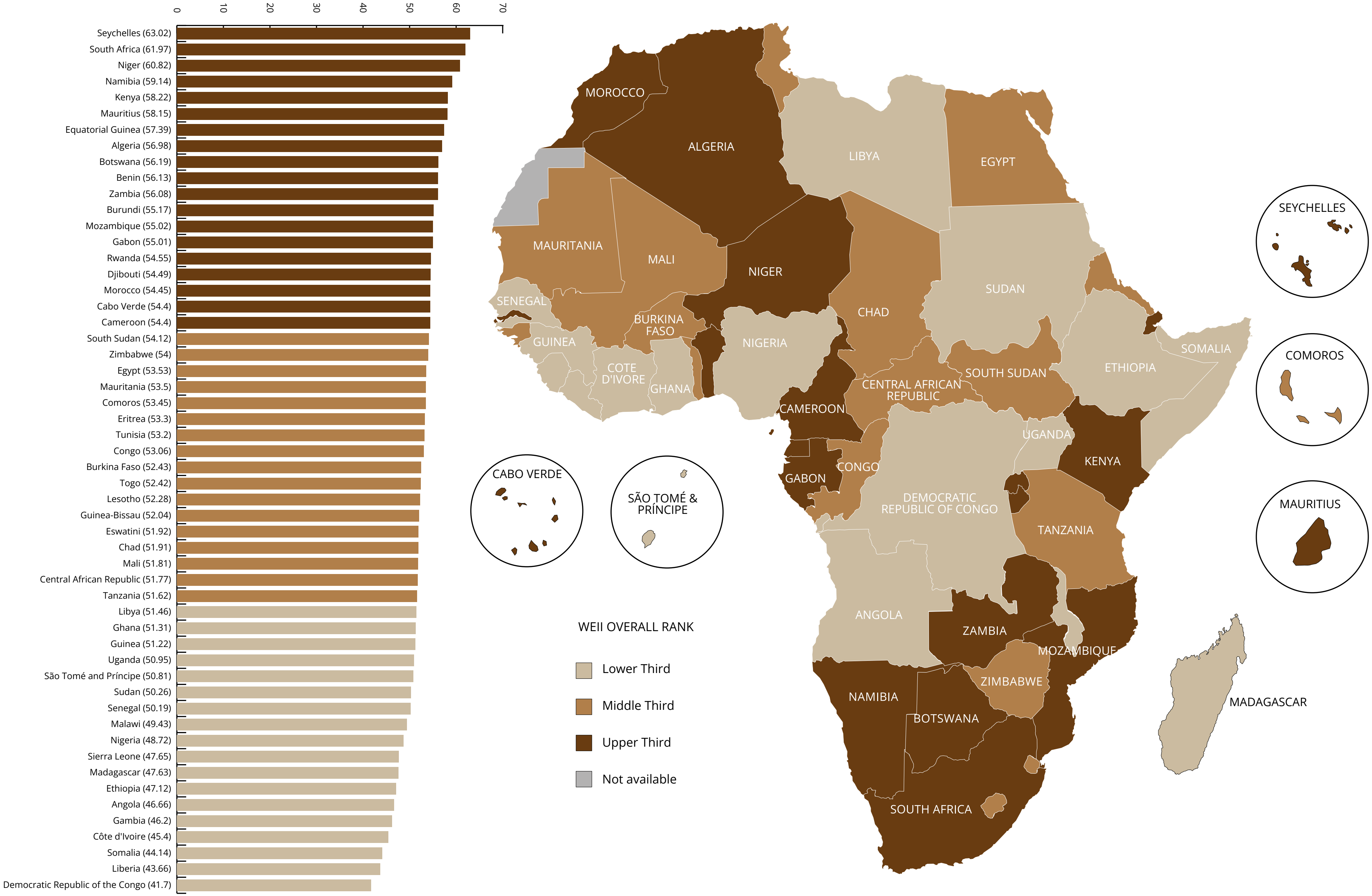
Seychelles (63.02) ranks first in this sub-category, followed by South Africa (61.97) and Niger (60.82). Namibia (59.14) and Kenya (58.22) also rank among the top performers. These countries demonstrate relatively strong performance across a broad range of indicators, including protected area management effectiveness, environmental governance, and ecosystem protection. Their results reflect more established conservation systems and sustained management efforts.

Several other countries, including Mauritius, Botswana, and Zambia, also perform strongly, indicating that effective wildlife management is present across different regions and country contexts. This reflects the growing role of conservation institutions, environmental monitoring, and ecosystem management initiatives across the continent.

At the lower end of the ranking, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (41.7) records the lowest score, followed by Liberia (43.66), Somalia (44.14), and Côte d'Ivoire (45.4). These lower scores indicate comparatively weaker performance across the indicators included and may reflect constraints in environmental governance, enforcement systems, and ecosystem management capacity.

The results show that many African countries have established the foundations for wildlife management, but effectiveness varies considerably. **Enhanced enforcement capacity, improved ecosystem monitoring, and stronger protected area management effectiveness will be important to support effective conservation outcomes and the long-term sustainability of wildlife resources**. Figure 23 presents the scores and rankings based on the wildlife management effectiveness sub-category.

Figure 23: Wildlife management effectiveness (v2, 2025) rankings and scores

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Ease of doing business

The ease of doing business category consists of four sub-categories: business operations, access to finances (and other resources), access to markets and anti-corruption. Together, these sub-categories are represented by a total of 103 indicators.

Business operations

The business operations sub-category assesses the overall ease with which businesses can start, operate, and grow within a country. It includes 51 indicators covering regulatory efficiency, administrative procedures, trade facilitation, taxation, policy stability, financial and monetary conditions, and the broader regulatory and institutional environment. **These indicators capture both formal regulatory requirements and the practical conditions that influence business activity.**

Across 47 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 60.01 out of 100. This indicates that, on average, many African countries have established moderately supportive environments for business operations. In several countries, regulatory frameworks, trade systems, and administrative processes provide a reasonable foundation for business activity. However, **the average score also reflects persistent constraints in areas such as administrative efficiency, regulatory predictability, taxation, and macroeconomic stability, which can increase costs and uncertainty for businesses.**

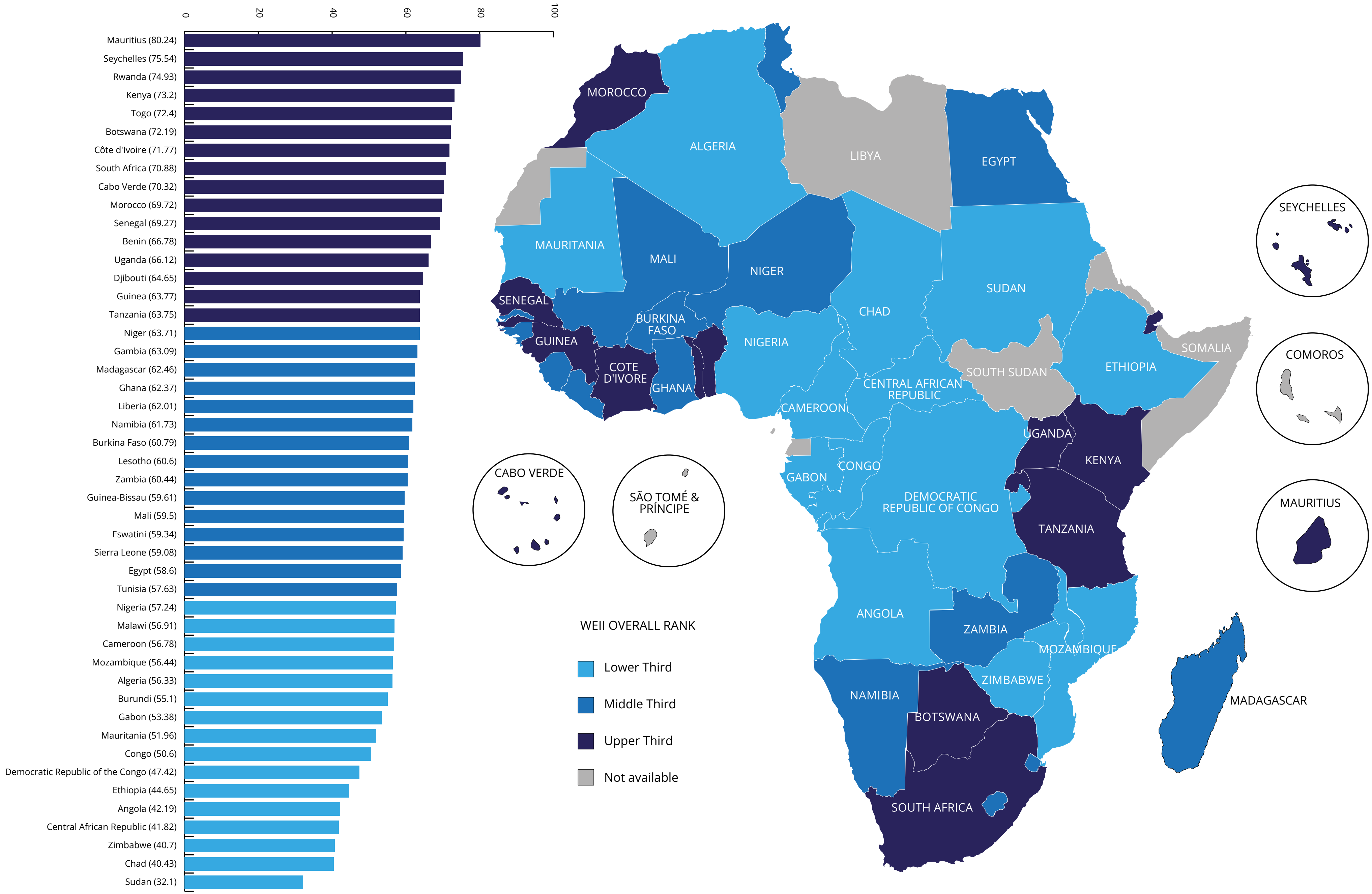
Mauritius ranks first in this sub-category with a score of 80.24, reflecting strong performance across regulatory quality, administrative efficiency, and macroeconomic stability. Seychelles (75.54) and Rwanda (74.93) follow closely, supported by streamlined business procedures, stable regulatory environments, and relatively strong policy implementation. Kenya (73.2), Togo (72.4), Botswana (72.19), and Côte d'Ivoire (71.77) also rank among the top performers, reflecting continued progress in improving regulatory efficiency, trade facilitation, and business support systems. These countries have developed relatively better enabling environments for business operations compared to the continental average.

Several countries, including Namibia, Ghana, Madagascar, Zambia, and Lesotho, achieve scores close to the continental mean, reflecting moderate business operating conditions. While businesses can operate and grow in these environments, administrative complexity, regulatory uncertainty, and economic volatility may still present challenges.

At the lower end of the ranking, Sudan (32.1) records the lowest score, followed by Chad (40.43), Zimbabwe (40.7), and the Central African Republic (41.82). These lower scores reflect greater regulatory complexity, weaker administrative capacity, and less stable economic and policy environments.

The results highlight steady progress across Africa in improving business operating conditions. **Continued improvements in regulatory efficiency, policy stability, and administrative effectiveness will be important to support investment, economic growth, and the development of wildlife-based economic activities.** Figure 24 presents the scores and rankings based on the business operations sub-category.

Figure 24: Business operations (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Access to finances (and other resources)

The access to finances (and other resources) sub-category evaluates the extent to which businesses can obtain financial services and essential productive resources. It consists of 12 indicators covering the strength and efficiency of banking systems, availability of credit, financing for small and medium enterprises, venture capital availability, financial freedom, access to banking services, and lending conditions. It also considers access to land and the extent to which firms identify finance as a major constraint. Together, **these indicators reflect the extent to which businesses are able to access the financial resources and productive inputs required to start, sustain, and expand economic activity within a country**.

Across 48 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 48.04 out of 100. **This suggests that, on average, access to finance and key productive resources remains moderately constrained across much of Africa.** While financial systems are present in most countries, businesses often face barriers related to credit availability, lending costs, and the depth and outreach of financial institutions. These constraints can affect the ability of firms to invest, expand operations, and participate fully in wildlife-based and nature-based economic activities.

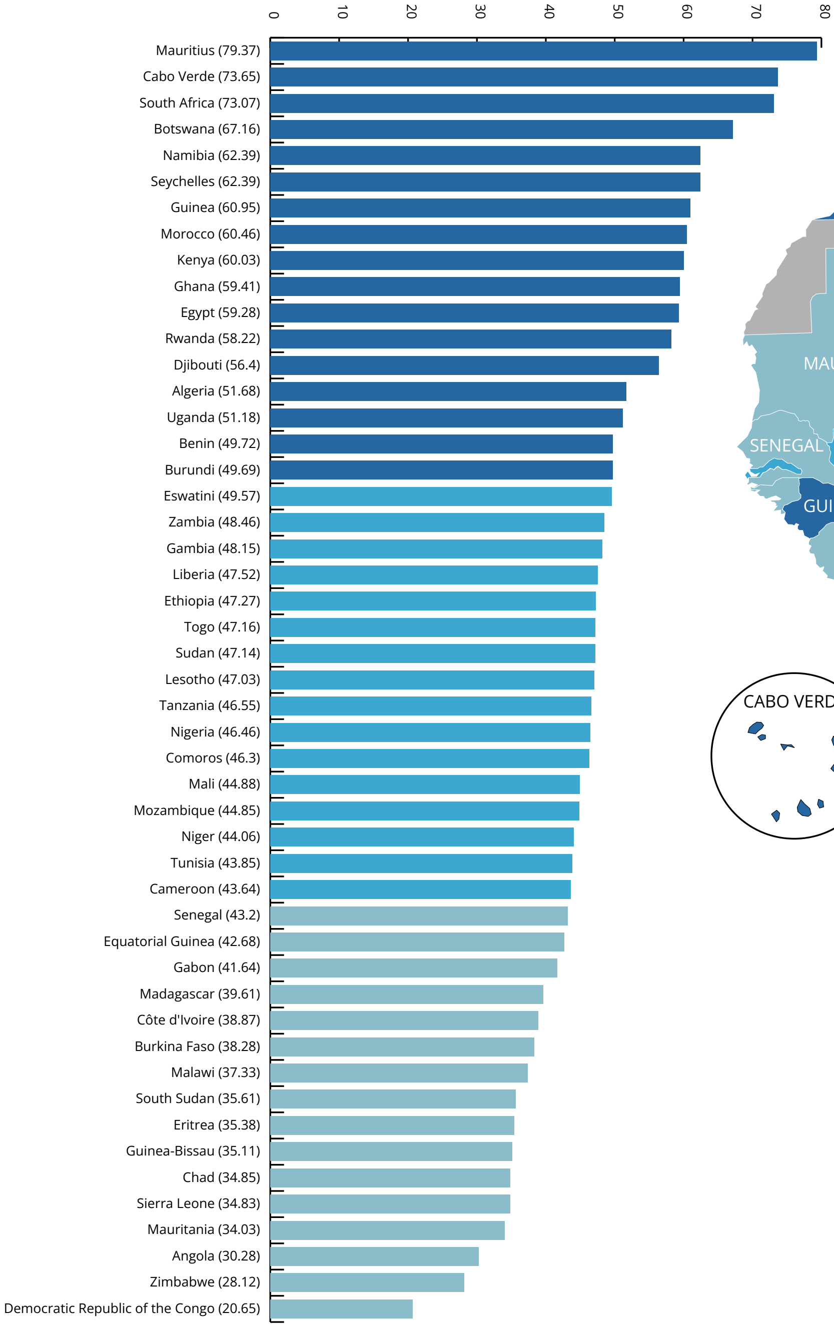
Mauritius ranks first in this sub-category with a score of 79.37, reflecting a well-developed financial sector, strong banking access, and a favourable environment for business financing. Cabo Verde (73.65) and South Africa (73.07) also perform strongly, supported by relatively mature banking systems, broader access to financial services, and higher levels of credit availability. Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles, Kenya, Ghana, and Morocco also rank among the top performers, reflecting comparatively stronger financial systems and improved access to business financing.

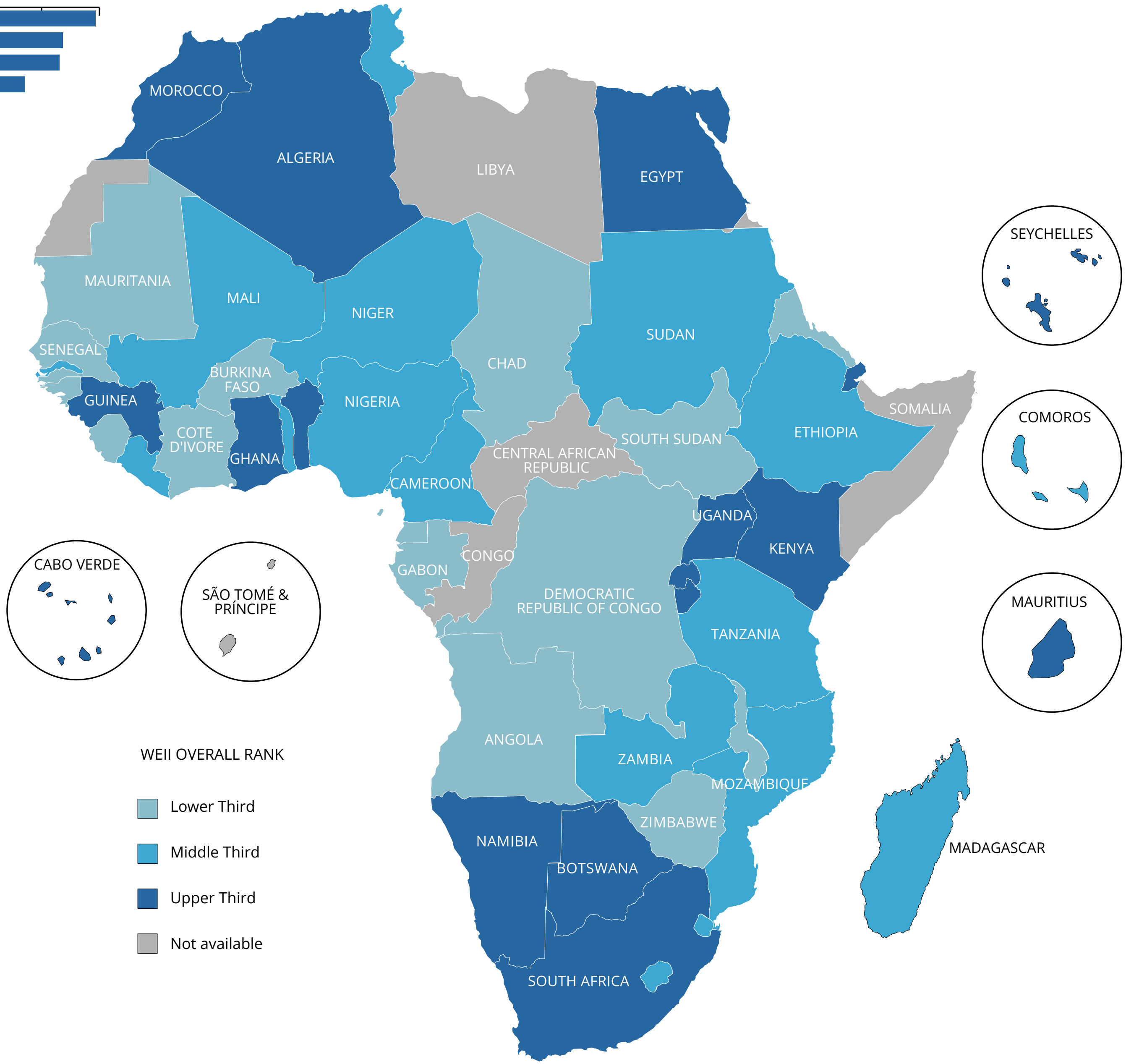
Many countries, including Uganda, Benin, Zambia, Nigeria, and Tanzania, achieve scores close to the continental average. This indicates that while financial systems are functioning, businesses may still face constraints related to lending costs, collateral requirements, or limited availability of specialised financing such as venture capital.

At the lower end, countries such as Angola (30.28), Zimbabwe (28.12), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (20.65) record the lowest scores, reflecting more limited financial system depth, reduced credit availability, and weaker access to formal financial services.

The results highlight the importance of continued efforts to advance financial sector development, expand access to credit, and improve financial inclusion. **Improving access to finance will be important for enabling investment, supporting business growth, and unlocking opportunities within the wildlife economy.** Figure 25 presents the scores and rankings based on the access to finances (and other resources) sub-category.

Figure 25: Access to finances (and other resources) (v2, 2025) rankings and scores





Access to markets

The access to markets sub-category evaluates the extent to which businesses can access and compete in domestic, regional, and international markets. It consists of 17 indicators covering trade liberalisation, competition policy, public procurement procedures, regional cooperation, bilateral investment treaties, and participation in continental frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It also includes indicators related to market structure, informal sector competition, and equal socioeconomic opportunity. Together, **these indicators reflect how effectively countries enable businesses to reach customers, compete fairly, and participate in broader economic systems.**

Across 52 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 43.55 out of 100. This indicates that, overall, access to markets across Africa remains moderate under the indicators included. While many countries have made progress in improving trade openness, regional integration, and market institutions, structural barriers such as limited competition, informal sector pressures, and regulatory constraints continue to affect market access in many contexts.

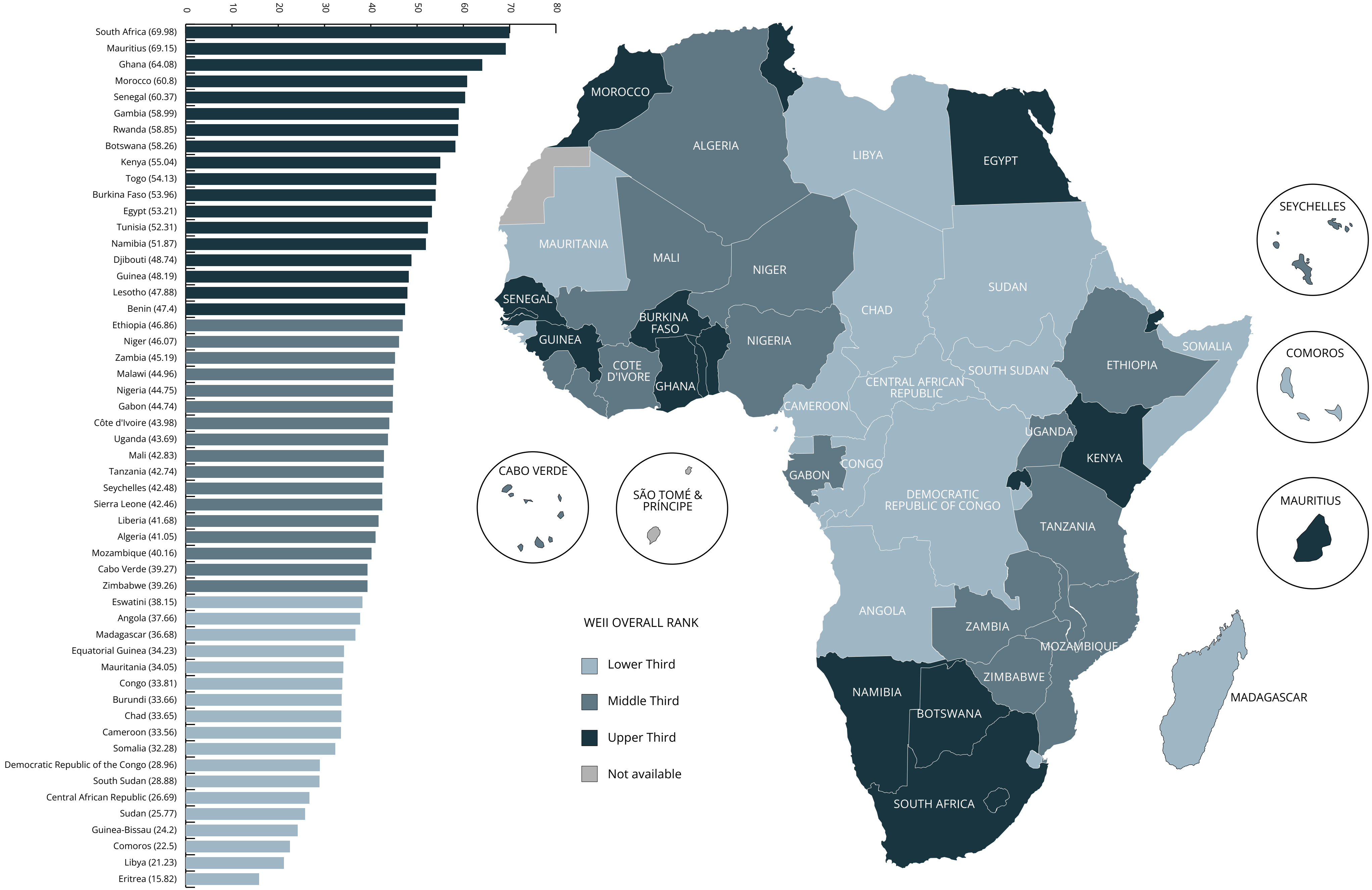
South Africa ranks first in this sub-category with a score of 69.98, followed closely by Mauritius (69.15) and Ghana (64.08). Morocco (60.8), Senegal (60.37), and Gambia (58.99) also rank among the top performers. These countries demonstrate relatively strong market access conditions, supported by more developed competition frameworks, stronger regional integration, and more accessible public procurement systems. Their performance reflects environments where businesses are better positioned to participate in domestic and international markets.

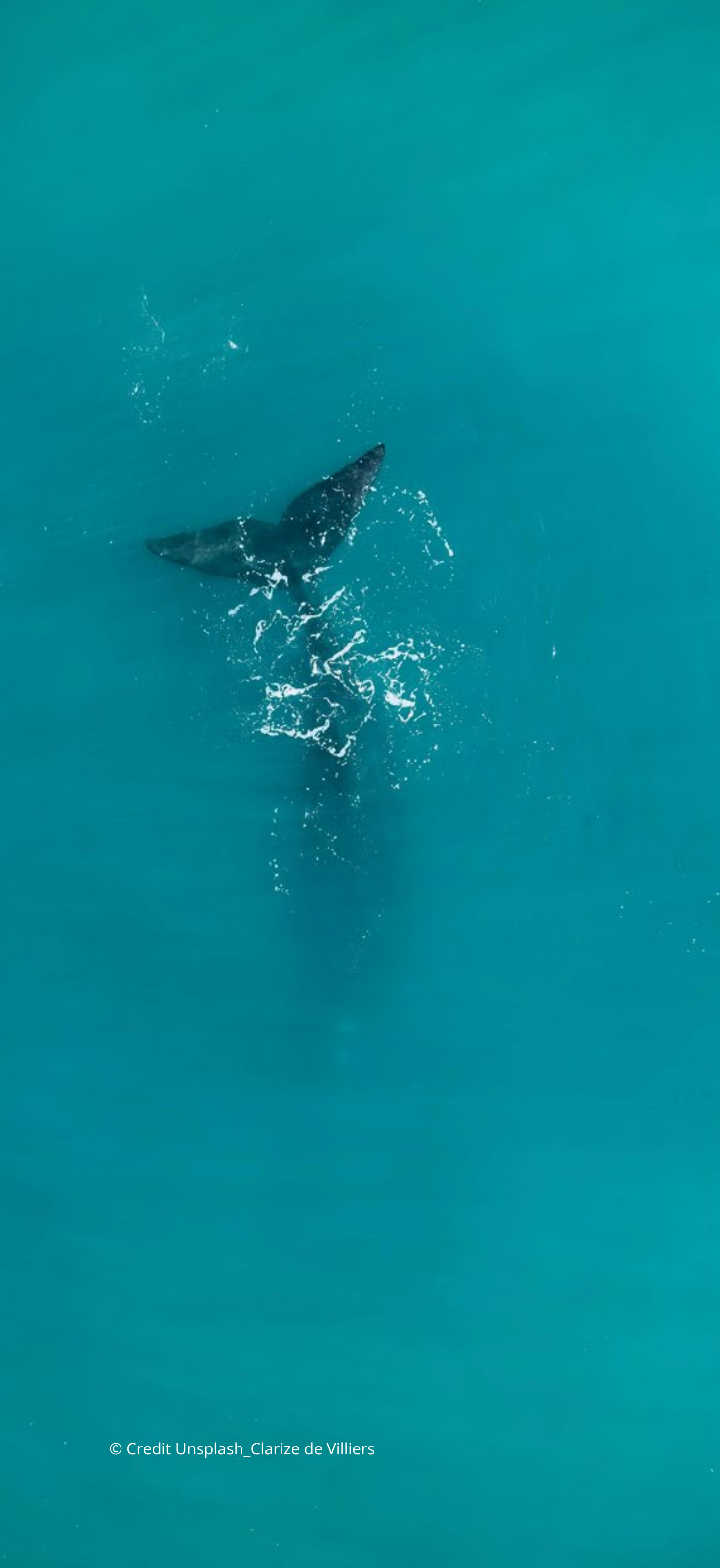
Several countries, including Rwanda, Botswana, Kenya, and Togo, also perform strongly, reflecting continued progress in enhancing trade integration, improving market institutions, and supporting business participation in formal markets.

At the lower end of the ranking, Eritrea (15.82) records the lowest score, followed by Libya (21.23), Comoros (22.5), Guinea-Bissau (24.2), and Sudan (25.77). These lower scores reflect more limited market access under the indicators included, often associated with weaker market institutions, limited trade integration, and structural constraints affecting competition and business participation.

The results highlight ongoing progress in improving market access across Africa, while also pointing to the importance of enhancing competition frameworks, expanding regional integration, and reducing structural barriers to support business growth and investment. Figure 26 presents the scores and rankings based on the access to markets sub-category.

Figure 26: Access to markets (v2, 2025) rankings and scores





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Anti-corruption

The anti-corruption sub-category assesses the extent to which corruption is controlled across both public institutions and business interactions. It consists of 23 indicators covering firm-level experiences of bribery, institutional integrity, safeguards against corruption, perceptions of corruption, and measures of corruption within the executive, legislative, and public sectors. These indicators capture both the prevalence of corrupt practices and the effectiveness of mechanisms designed to prevent and address them. Together, **they reflect the level of transparency, accountability, and institutional integrity that supports a stable and predictable investment environment.**

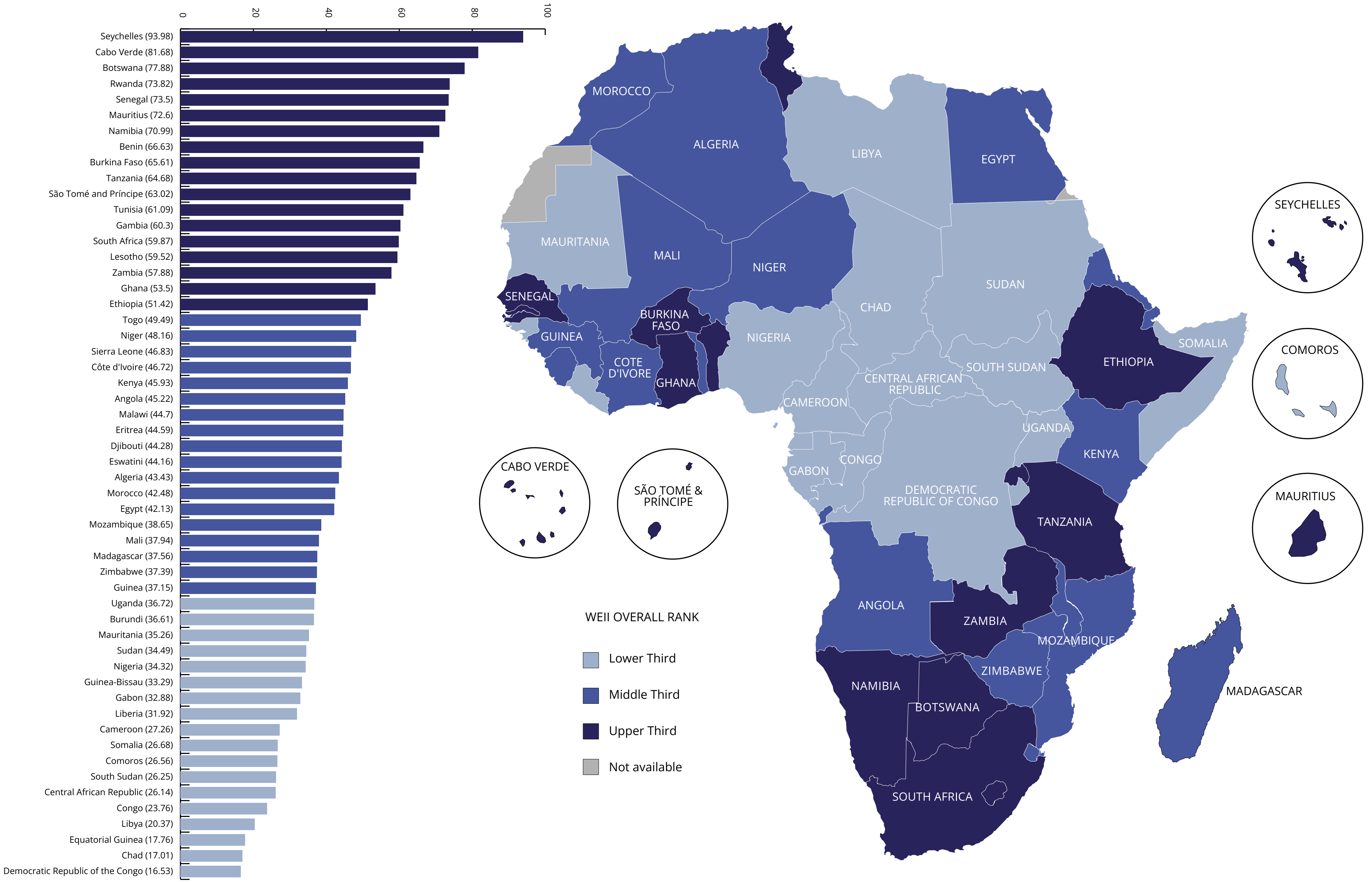
Across 54 countries, the continental average score in this sub-category is 46.09 out of 100. This suggests that, overall, anti-corruption conditions across Africa remain moderate under the indicators included. While several countries demonstrate strong institutional safeguards and relatively low levels of corruption, many others continue to face persistent challenges that affect public sector integrity and business confidence.

Seychelles ranks first with a score of 93.98, reflecting particularly strong performance across institutional integrity, corruption safeguards, and perceptions of corruption. Cabo Verde (81.68), Botswana (77.88), Rwanda (73.82), and Senegal (73.5) also rank among the top performers, supported by relatively strong governance structures, effective anti-corruption mechanisms, and lower reported prevalence of bribery and corrupt exchanges. Other strong performers include Mauritius, Namibia, and Benin, reflecting continued progress in enhancing institutional accountability and transparency.

At the lower end of the ranking, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (16.53) records the lowest score, followed by Chad (17.01), Equatorial Guinea (17.76), Libya (20.37), and Congo (23.76). These lower scores reflect weaker performance across indicators related to corruption control, public sector integrity, and institutional safeguards.

The results highlight that while some African countries have established relatively strong anti-corruption environments, corruption remains a significant structural challenge across much of the continent. **Enhanced institutional safeguards, improved transparency, and stronger enforcement mechanisms will remain important to support investor confidence, improve governance, and enable the sustainable development of the wildlife economy.** Figure 27 presents the scores and rankings based on the anti-corruption sub-category.

Figure 27: Anti-corruption (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



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Public sector capacity

The public sector capacity category consists of four sub-categories: rule of law, infrastructure, labour market and social inclusion. Together, these sub-categories are represented by a total of 90 indicators.

Rule of law

The rule of law sub-category evaluates the strength, independence, and effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks that govern society and economic activity. It consists of 59 indicators covering the enforcement of laws and regulations, judicial independence, institutional checks and balances, accountability mechanisms, transparency, civic participation, and the protection of fundamental rights. These indicators assess whether government powers are constrained, whether laws are applied consistently, and whether institutions function in a predictable and impartial manner. Together, **they reflect the extent to which legal systems provide stability, fairness, and confidence for citizens, businesses, and investors.**

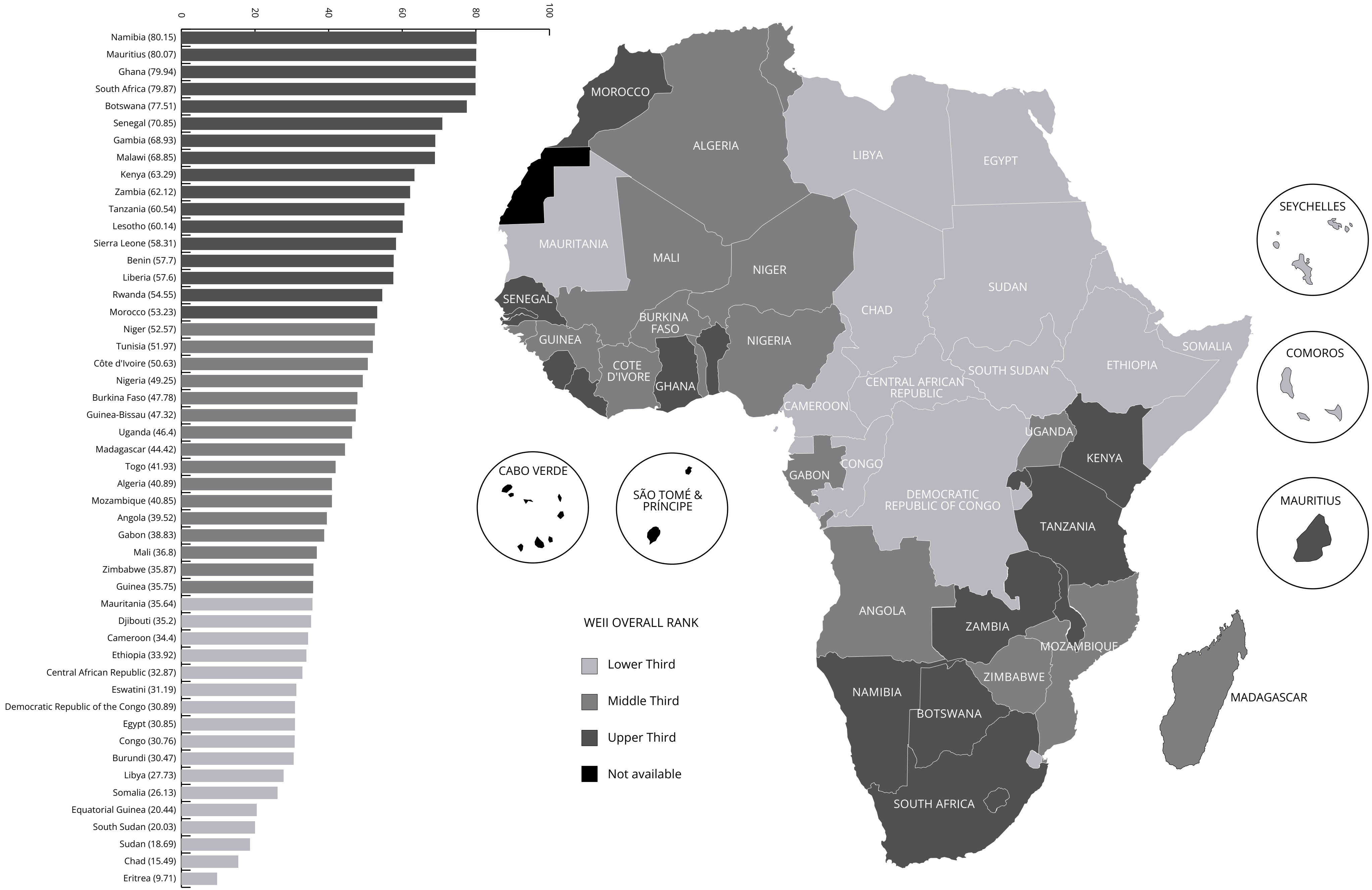
Across 50 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score in this sub-category is 45.98 out of 100. This indicates that, overall, the strength of rule of law across Africa remains moderate under the indicators included. While many countries have established functioning legal and institutional systems, gaps remain in areas such as judicial independence, enforcement consistency, institutional accountability, and the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms.

Namibia ranks first with a score of 80.15, closely followed by Mauritius (80.07), Ghana (79.94), South Africa (79.87), and Botswana (77.51). These countries demonstrate strong performance across indicators related to judicial independence, institutional checks and balances, and enforcement of legal frameworks. Their results reflect relatively stable legal environments that support governance effectiveness and investment confidence. Other strong performers include Senegal, Gambia, Malawi, and Kenya, indicating continued progress in enhancing legal institutions and accountability mechanisms.

At the lower end of the ranking, Eritrea (9.71) records the lowest score, followed by Chad (15.49), Sudan (18.69), South Sudan (20.03), and Equatorial Guinea (20.44). These lower scores reflect weaker performance across indicators related to institutional independence, accountability, and legal enforcement.

The results highlight that while several African countries have established strong rule of law foundations, promoting judicial independence, improving enforcement consistency, and enhancing institutional accountability remain important priorities across much of the continent. Improvements in these areas can support governance effectiveness, reinforce investor confidence, and contribute to a more stable environment for the wildlife economy. Figure 28 presents the scores and rankings based on the rule of law sub-category.

Figure 28: Rule of law (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Infrastructure

The infrastructure sub-category evaluates the availability, quality, and effectiveness of physical and digital systems that support economic activity and connectivity. It consists of eight indicators covering road connectivity, quality of road infrastructure, efficiency of air transport services, the African Development Bank Composite Infrastructure Index, transport networks, mobile communications, internet usage, and logistics infrastructure. Together, **these indicators reflect the extent to which countries provide reliable transport, communication, and logistics systems that enable trade, investment, and economic participation.**

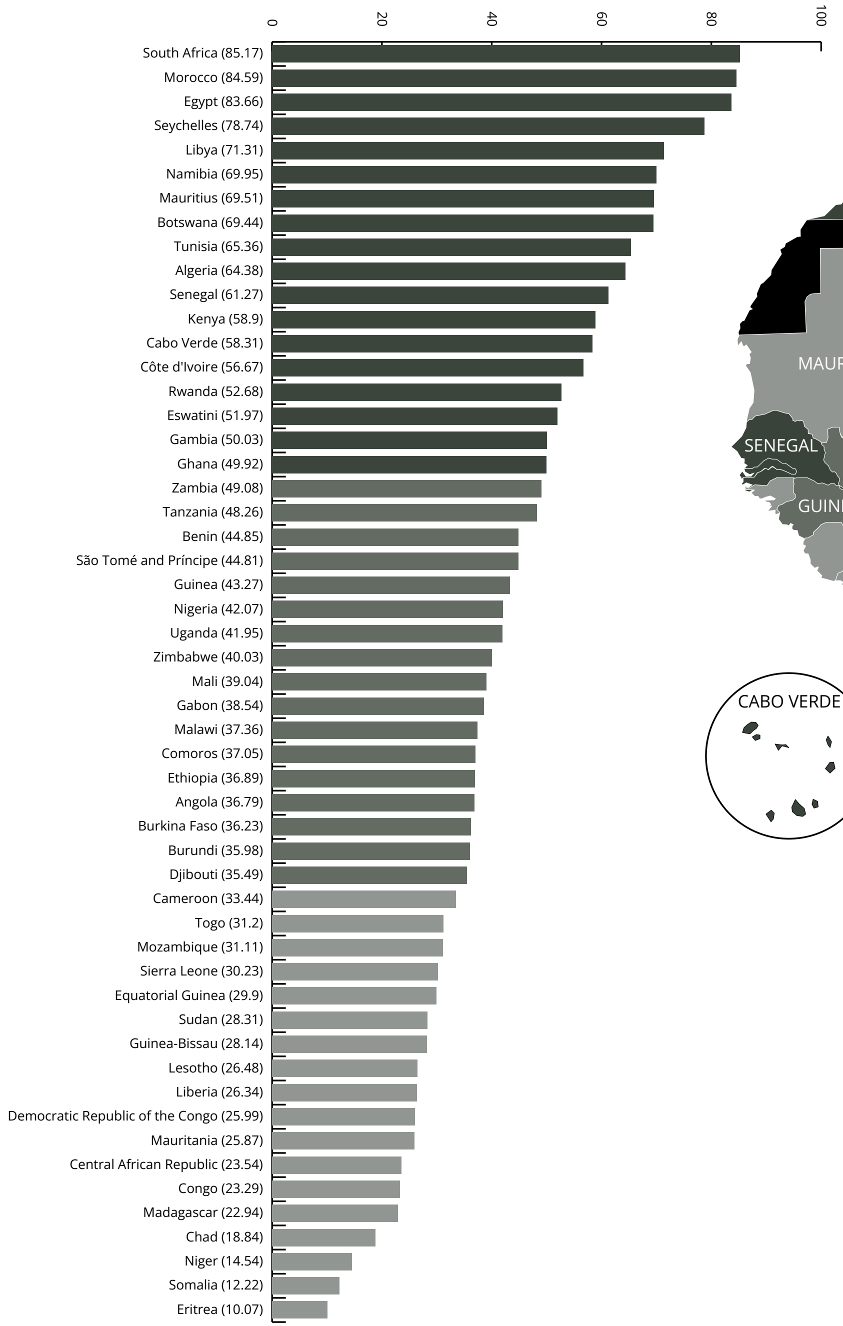
Across 53 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score in this sub-category is 43.88 out of 100. This **indicates that infrastructure development across Africa remains uneven, with many countries still facing significant constraints in transport connectivity, logistics efficiency, and digital access.** While mobile communications have expanded rapidly across much of the continent, gaps persist in transport networks, logistics performance, and internet usage, which remain below optimal levels in many countries.

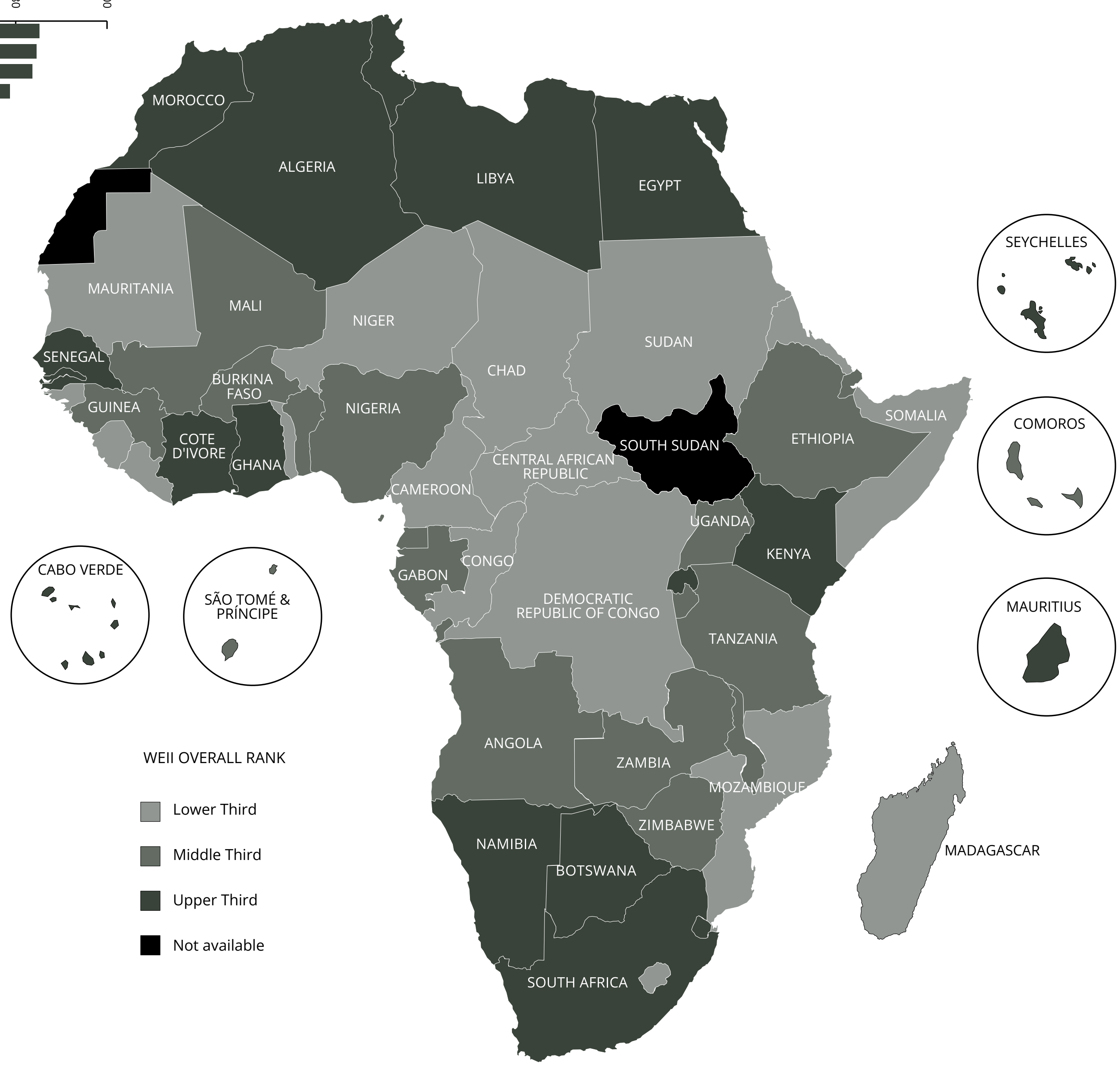
South Africa ranks first with a score of 85.17, followed closely by Morocco (84.59) and Egypt (83.66). These countries demonstrate strong performance across multiple infrastructure dimensions, including well-developed road networks, efficient air transport systems, and relatively high levels of digital connectivity. Other strong performers include Seychelles, Libya, Namibia, Mauritius, and Botswana, reflecting relatively well-established infrastructure systems that support economic activity and access to markets.

In contrast, Eritrea (10.07) records the lowest score, followed by Somalia (12.22), Niger (14.54), Chad (18.84), and Madagascar (22.94). These lower scores reflect more limited infrastructure development, including weaker transport connectivity, lower internet usage, and less developed logistics systems.

The results highlight substantial variation in infrastructure capacity across the continent. While several countries have developed relatively strong infrastructure foundations, improving transport networks, logistics performance, and digital connectivity remains an important priority across many African countries. **Strengthening infrastructure can support economic integration, improve access to markets, and enhance the enabling environment for wildlife-related investment and economic activity.** Figure 29 presents the scores and rankings based on the infrastructure sub-category.

Figure 29: Infrastructure (v2, 2025) rankings and scores





Labour market

The labour market sub-category evaluates the flexibility, efficiency, and inclusiveness of labour systems across African countries. It consists of 12 indicators covering labour freedom, hiring and firing practices, labour relations, labour taxes, productivity, internal labour mobility, hiring regulations, worker protections, and the overall ease of hiring both domestic and foreign workers. Together, **these indicators reflect how effectively labour markets support business operations while protecting worker rights and ensuring fair employment conditions.**

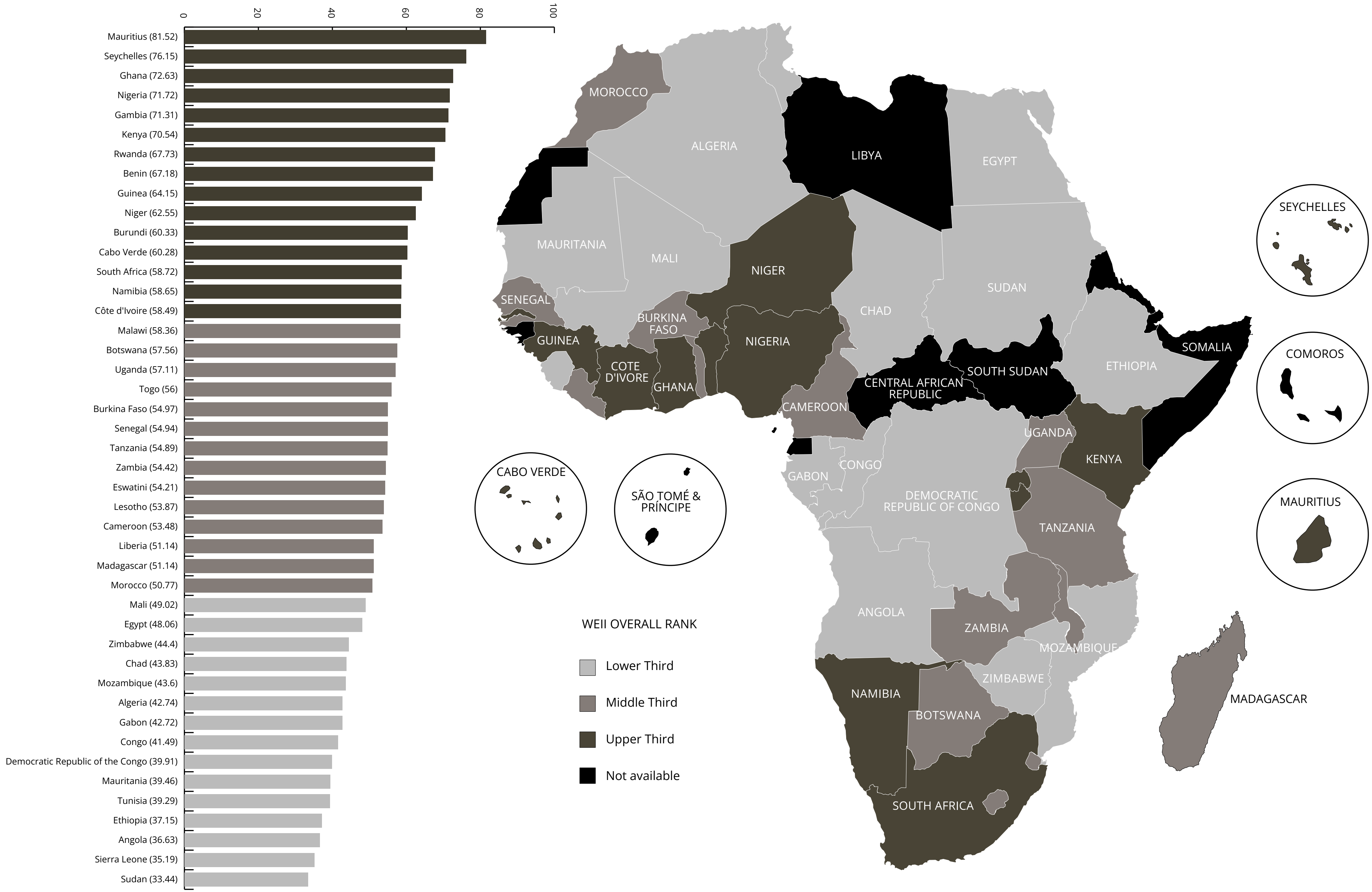
Across 44 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score in this sub-category is 54.13 out of 100. This indicates that, overall, labour market conditions across Africa are moderately supportive of economic activity under the indicators included. Many countries demonstrate relatively flexible labour regulations, reasonable labour mobility, and manageable labour costs. However, performance varies widely, with some countries providing highly supportive labour environments while others face constraints related to regulatory rigidity, lower productivity, or weaker labour protections.

Mauritius ranks first with a score of 81.52, followed by Seychelles (76.15), Ghana (72.63), Nigeria (71.72), and Gambia (71.31). These countries demonstrate strong labour market performance across several indicators, including labour flexibility, labour relations, and productivity. Their results reflect labour environments that are generally conducive to business operations while maintaining structured employment systems. Other strong performers include Kenya, Rwanda, Benin, and Guinea, highlighting progress across different regions of the continent.

At the lower end of the ranking, Sudan (33.44) records the lowest score, followed by Sierra Leone (35.19), Angola (36.63), Ethiopia (37.15), and Tunisia (39.29). These lower scores reflect more constrained labour market conditions, including weaker labour relations, lower productivity indicators, or regulatory and institutional limitations affecting labour market efficiency.

The results indicate that while many African countries have established labour systems that support economic participation, further improvements in labour productivity, workforce skills, regulatory clarity, and labour mobility could enhance labour market effectiveness. **Improving labour market conditions can help support business growth, improve employment outcomes, and enhance the broader investment environment linked to the wildlife economy.** Figure 30 presents the scores and rankings based on the labour market sub-category.

Figure 30: Labour market (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Social inclusion

The social inclusion sub-category evaluates the extent to which societies provide equal rights, opportunities, and protections for all individuals and groups. It consists of 11 indicators covering equality in civil liberties across social, political, and gender groups, freedom of religion, equal opportunity, absence of discrimination, socioeconomic opportunities for women, and government policies related to social protection, gender equality, and equitable use of public resources. **These indicators reflect both legal protections and the broader social and institutional environment that supports inclusive participation in economic and social life.**

Across 53 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score in this sub-category is 56.28 out of 100. This indicates that, overall, many African countries have established moderate levels of social inclusion under the indicators included. In several countries, legal protections and policy frameworks support civil liberties, gender equality, and equitable access to opportunities. However, the average score also highlights continued disparities in access to opportunities, unequal treatment across different groups, and gaps in social protection systems in parts of the continent.

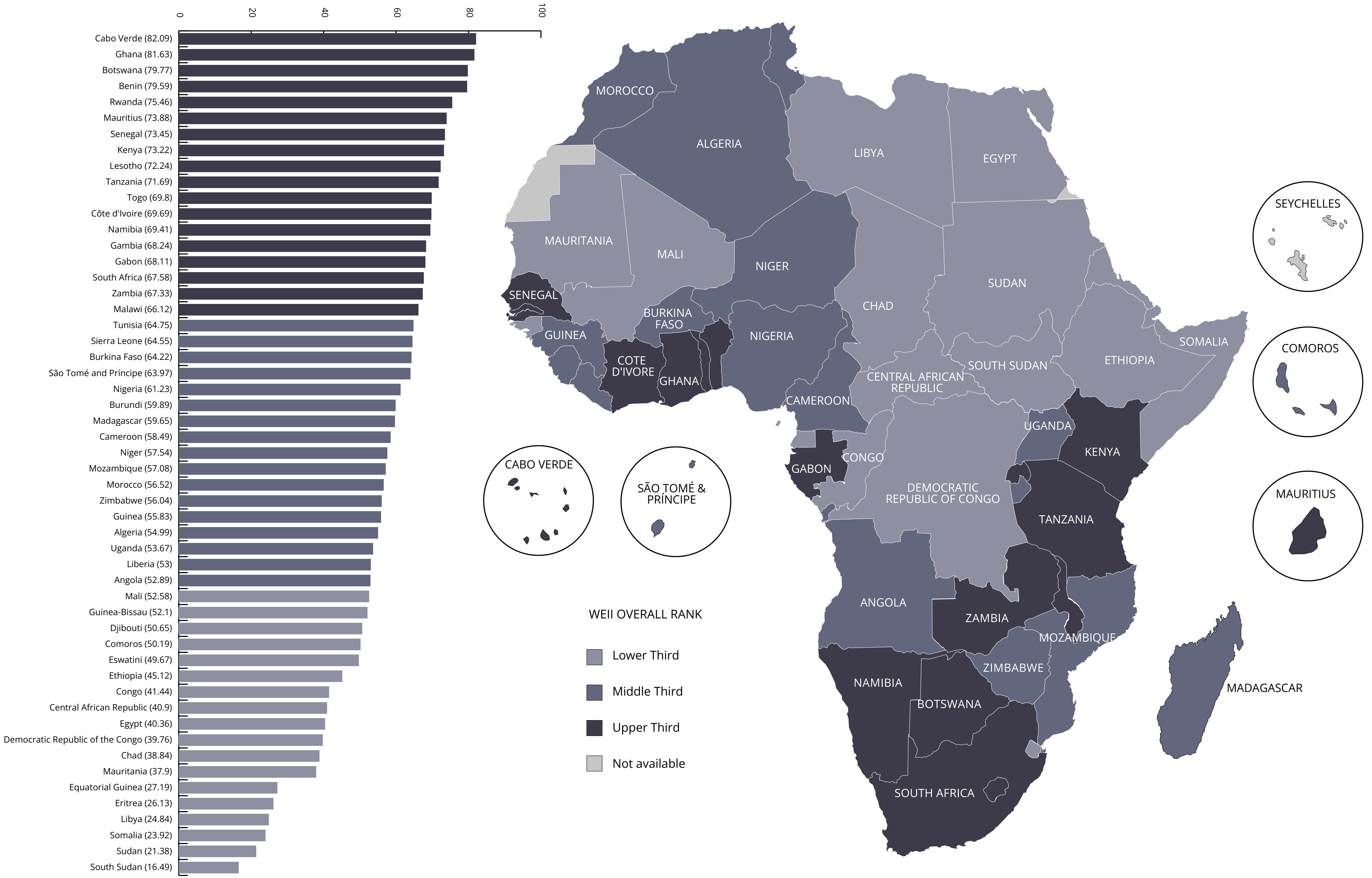
Cabo Verde ranks first with a score of 82.09, followed closely by Ghana (81.63), Botswana (79.77), Benin (79.59), and Rwanda (75.46). These countries demonstrate strong performance across indicators related to civil liberties, equality, and inclusive policy frameworks. Other strong performers include Mauritius, Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, and Namibia, reflecting relatively inclusive social environments and stronger institutional support for equal opportunity and participation.

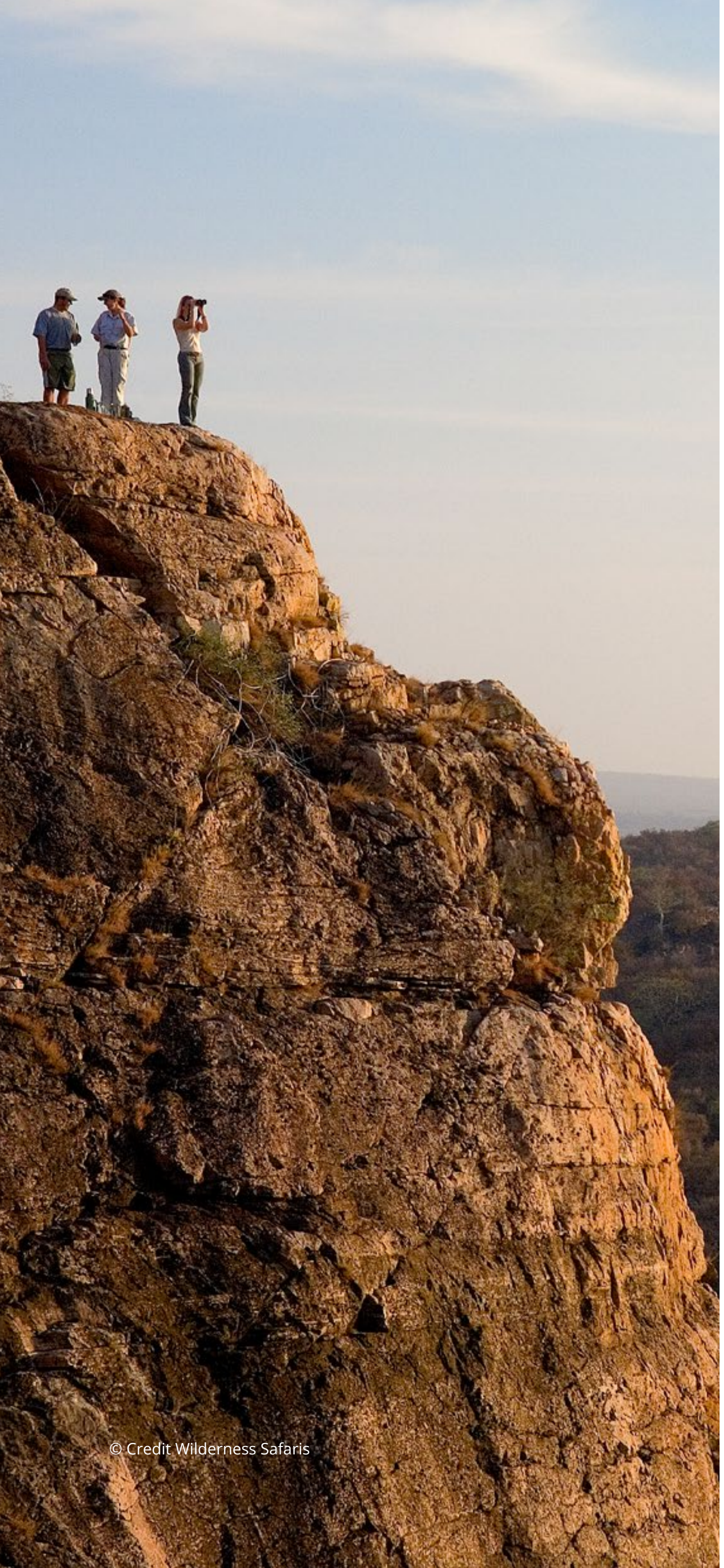
Many countries fall near the continental average, including Nigeria, Uganda, Mozambique, Morocco, and Algeria. This reflects environments where elements of social inclusion are present, but gaps remain in ensuring consistent equality and protection across all groups.

At the lower end of the ranking, South Sudan (16.49) records the lowest score, followed by Sudan (21.38), Somalia (23.92), Libya (24.84), and Eritrea (26.13). These lower scores reflect more limited performance across indicators related to civil liberties, equal opportunity, and social protection.

The results highlight meaningful progress in promoting social inclusion across many African countries. **Continued efforts to enhance equality, expand social protection systems, and ensure fair access to opportunities will be important for supporting inclusive economic development and improving the enabling environment for investment and the wildlife economy**. Figure 31 presents the scores and rankings based on the social inclusion sub-category.

Figure 31: Social inclusion (v2, 2025) rankings and scores

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Investment safety

The investment safety category consists of three sub-categories: money growth, property rights, and security and stability. Together, these sub-categories are represented by a total of 27 indicators.

Money growth

The money growth sub-category evaluates the rate at which economic output and financial performance are increasing across countries. It consists of four indicators: real GDP annual growth, return on equity, return on assets, and annual growth in output per worker. Together, **these indicators reflect both overall economic expansion and the financial performance of firms, providing insight into the broader economic momentum that supports investment and business activity.**

Across 50 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 34.08 out of 100. This indicates that, overall, economic growth and financial performance remain moderate under the indicators included. While several countries demonstrate strong growth and firm-level returns, many others show slower growth rates, weaker productivity gains, or lower financial returns. This variation reflects differences in economic structure, investment levels, and sectoral performance across countries.

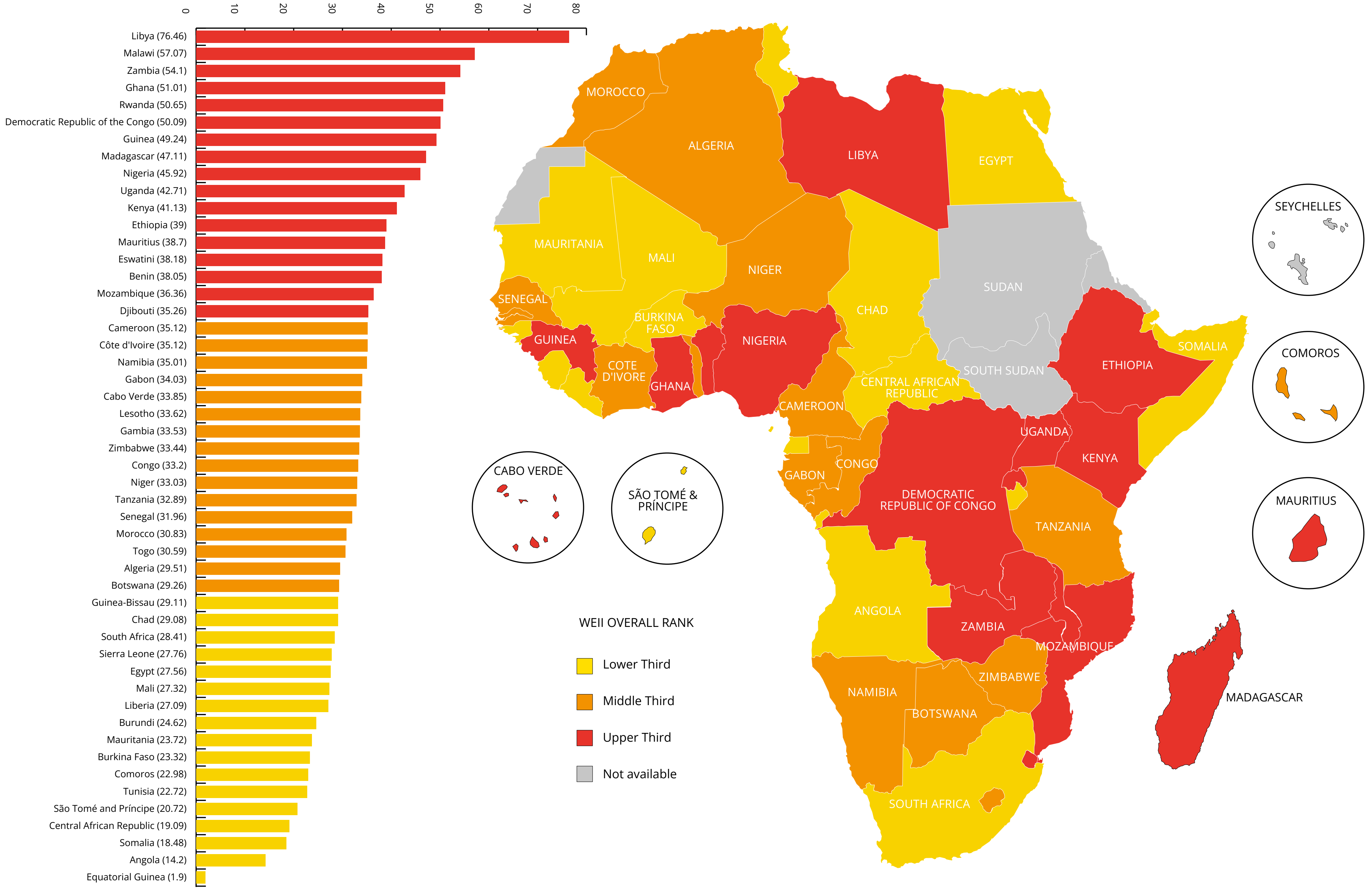
Libya (76.46) ranks first in this sub-category, largely driven by very high real GDP growth and strong productivity gains. Malawi (57.07) ranks second, supported by strong returns on equity and assets, while Zambia (54.1) ranks third, reflecting solid performance across financial return indicators and output growth. Ghana (51.01), Rwanda (50.65), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (50.09) also rank among the top performers, reflecting relatively strong economic expansion and firm-level performance under the indicators included. These countries demonstrate stronger economic momentum compared to the continental average.

Several countries, including Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda, and Namibia, achieve scores close to or slightly above the average. This reflects steady economic performance, although growth and returns remain moderate relative to the highest-performing countries.

At the lower end of the rankings, Equatorial Guinea (1.9) records the lowest score, followed by Angola (14.2), Somalia (18.48), and the Central African Republic (19.09). These lower scores reflect weaker economic growth, lower firm-level returns, or declining productivity under the indicators included.

The results highlight considerable variation in economic growth and financial performance across Africa. **Strong and sustained economic growth, improved firm performance, and rising productivity can help enhance investment conditions and support the long-term development of wildlife economies.** Figure 32 presents the scores and rankings based on the money growth sub-category.

Figure 32: Money growth (v2, 2025) rankings and scores

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Property rights

The property rights sub-category assesses the extent to which legal and institutional frameworks protect ownership rights, including both physical and intellectual property. It consists of seven indicators covering legal protections, intellectual property safeguards, protection against unlawful expropriation, governance quality, and broader measures of economic and institutional freedom. Together, **these indicators reflect the degree to which individuals and investors can securely own, use, and benefit from assets.**

Across 49 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 50.61 out of 100. This suggests that, overall, property rights protections across Africa are moderate under the indicators included. While many countries have established formal legal frameworks, the strength and consistency of implementation vary significantly. In practice, this means that property rights protections may be robust in some jurisdictions but weaker or less predictable in others. **Reinforcing property rights frameworks can help improve investor confidence, support long-term investment, and enable more sustainable economic activity, including investments related to wildlife conservation and wildlife-based enterprises.**

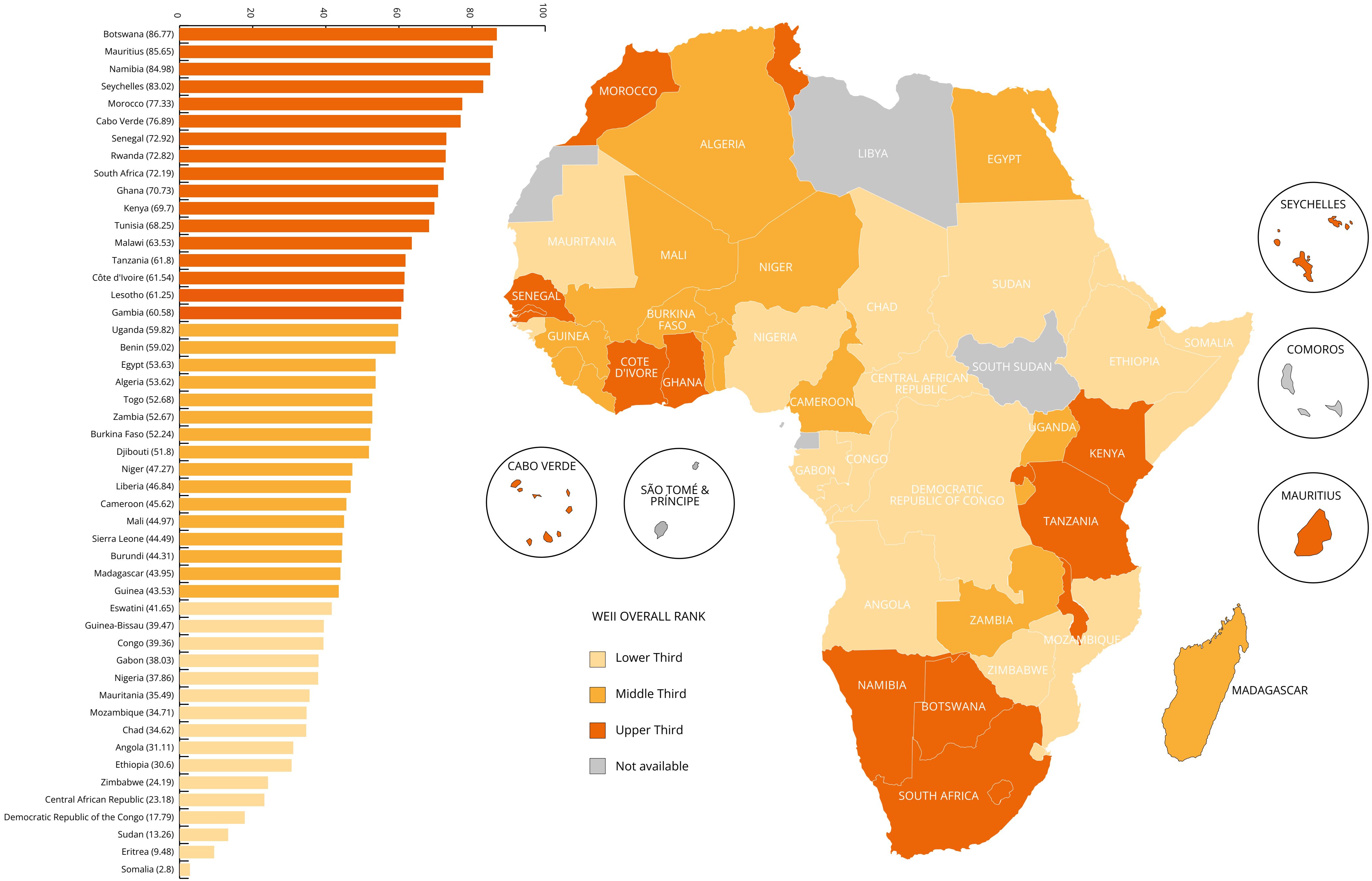
Botswana (86.77) ranks first in this sub-category, reflecting consistently strong performance across legal, governance, and economic freedom indicators. Mauritius (85.65) and Namibia (84.98) follow closely, with well-established legal systems and strong institutional protections. Seychelles (83.02), Morocco (77.33), Cabo Verde (76.89), and Senegal (72.92) also rank among the top performers, reflecting relatively strong legal protections and governance frameworks.

Several countries, including Uganda, Benin, Egypt, and Zambia, achieve scores close to the continental average. This reflects the presence of formal legal protections, though gaps may remain in implementation, enforcement, and/or investor confidence.

At the lower end of the ranking, Somalia (2.8) records the lowest score, followed by Eritrea (9.48), Sudan (13.26), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (17.79). These lower scores reflect weaker legal protections, governance challenges, or limited institutional capacity under the indicators included.

The results highlight substantial variation in property rights protections across the continent. **Strengthening legal certainty, improving enforcement, and enhancing governance systems can help create a more predictable environment for investment and support the long-term development of wildlife economies and other nature-based sectors.** Figure 33 presents the scores and rankings based on the property rights sub-category.

Figure 33: Property rights (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Security and stability

The security and stability sub-category assesses the extent to which countries provide a safe, predictable, and peaceful environment for economic and conservation activities. It consists of 16 indicators covering political stability, crime, terrorism, armed conflict, violence against civilians, conflict management, reconciliation, and the broader fragility of state institutions. Together, **these indicators reflect both the direct experience of insecurity and the institutional capacity to prevent and manage conflict.**

Across 52 countries (fewer than 54 countries are included due to data availability), the continental average score is 63.94 out of 100. This suggests that, overall, security and stability conditions across Africa are moderate under the indicators included. Many countries demonstrate strong performance in certain areas, such as the absence of armed conflict or terrorism, while facing more persistent challenges related to political instability, crime, or institutional fragility. This variation highlights the uneven nature of security conditions across the continent.

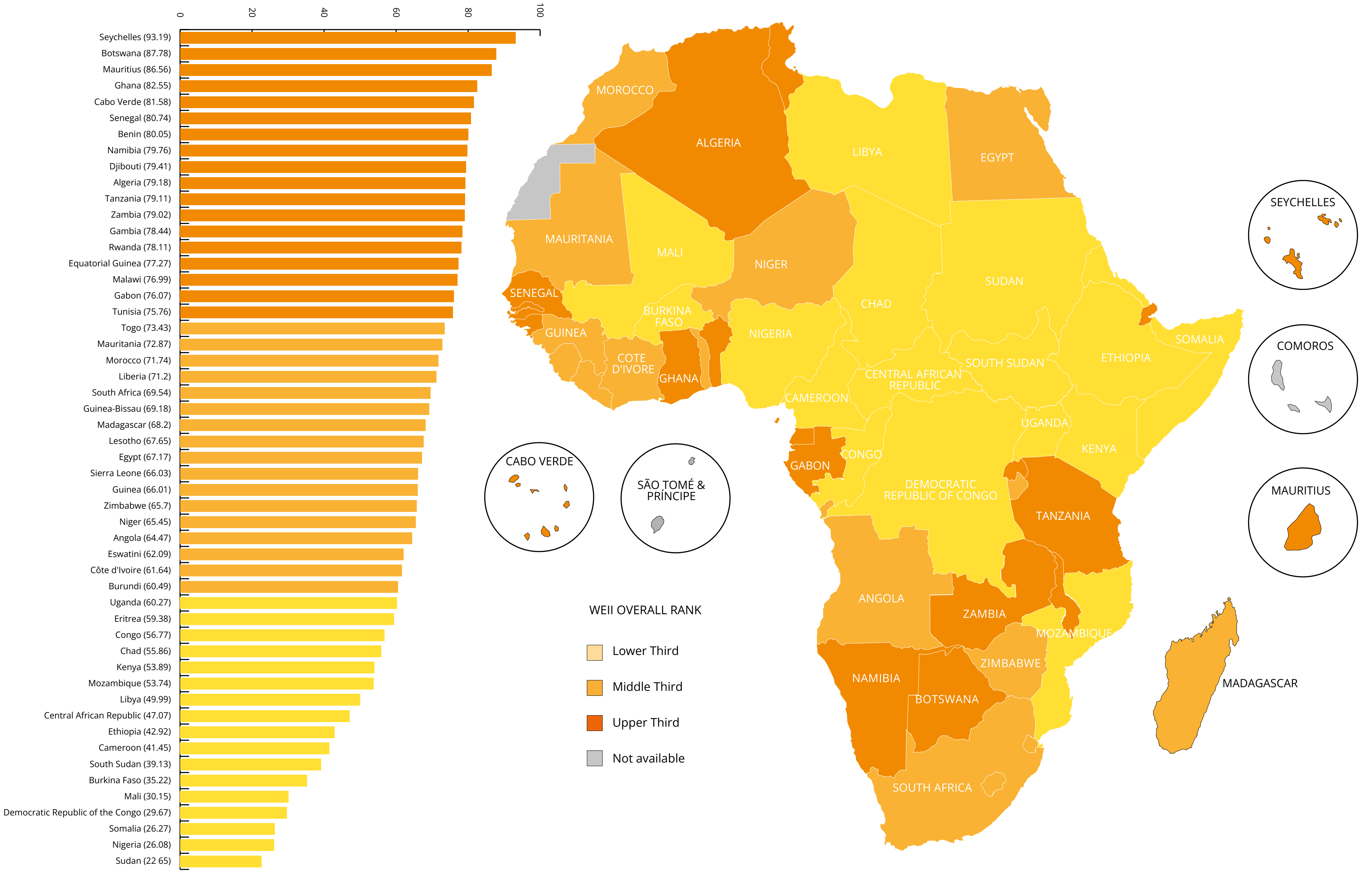
Seychelles (93.19) ranks first in this sub-category, reflecting consistently strong performance across indicators related to political stability, absence of conflict, and institutional resilience. Botswana (87.78) and Mauritius (86.56) follow closely, supported by stable political environments, effective governance, and low levels of violence. Ghana (82.55), Cabo Verde (81.58), Senegal (80.74), and Namibia (79.76) also rank among the top performers, reflecting relatively secure environments and effective conflict management systems.

Several countries, including South Africa, Egypt, Angola, and Côte d'Ivoire, achieve scores close to the continental average. These results reflect mixed performance across the indicators, with strengths in some areas balanced by ongoing challenges in others, such as crime levels, perceptions of instability, or broader fragility risks.

At the lower end of the ranking, Sudan (22.65) records the lowest score, followed by Nigeria (26.08), Somalia (26.27), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (29.67), and Mali (30.15). These lower scores reflect the presence of active conflict, political instability, or institutional fragility under the indicators included.

The results highlight substantial variation in security and stability conditions across Africa. **More effective conflict prevention, improved institutional effectiveness, and stronger public safety systems can help support a more predictable environment for investment, conservation, and sustainable wildlife economy development.** Figure 34 presents the scores and rankings based on the security and stability sub-category.

Figure 34: Security and stability (v2, 2025) rankings and scores



Continental priorities

The results of the Wildlife Economy Investment Index (WEII) v2 highlight both Africa's significant wildlife economy potential and the key areas where further progress can strengthen conservation outcomes and investment readiness. Overall, the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index records a higher continental average score (48.87) than the Wildlife Status Sub-index (40.98). This pattern indicates that, on average, many African countries have made greater progress in strengthening governance, institutional capacity, and investment conditions than in conserving and enhancing wildlife assets and ecological systems. This difference should, however, be interpreted with some caution, as the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index draws on a larger and more diverse set of indicators, while the Wildlife Status Sub-index is based on a more limited set, which may reduce its sensitivity to variation and change. Figure 35 presents an overview of the continental average scores at three aggregation levels (sub-index, category, sub-category) of the WEII v2.

This imbalance highlights an important priority for the continent. Wildlife assets form the foundation of the wildlife economy. **Without strong wildlife populations, healthy ecosystems, and well-protected habitats, the long-term sustainability of wildlife-based economic activities may be constrained.** While governance and investment conditions are essential, they must be complemented by sustained efforts to protect and restore wildlife assets.

The wildlife assets category records the lowest average score among all categories, at 24.77 out of 100. This reflects important gaps in protected area coverage, ecological habitat conservation, and endemic species protection under the indicators included. While Africa is globally recognised for its biodiversity, strong wildlife asset scores are concentrated in a relatively small number of countries, particularly those with extensive forests, savannah ecosystems, or isolated island environments. Expanding protected area coverage, improving connectivity between conservation areas, and strengthening ecosystem protection will remain important priorities. **Efforts to conserve critical habitats, including forests, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems, will help support biodiversity and maintain ecological resilience.**

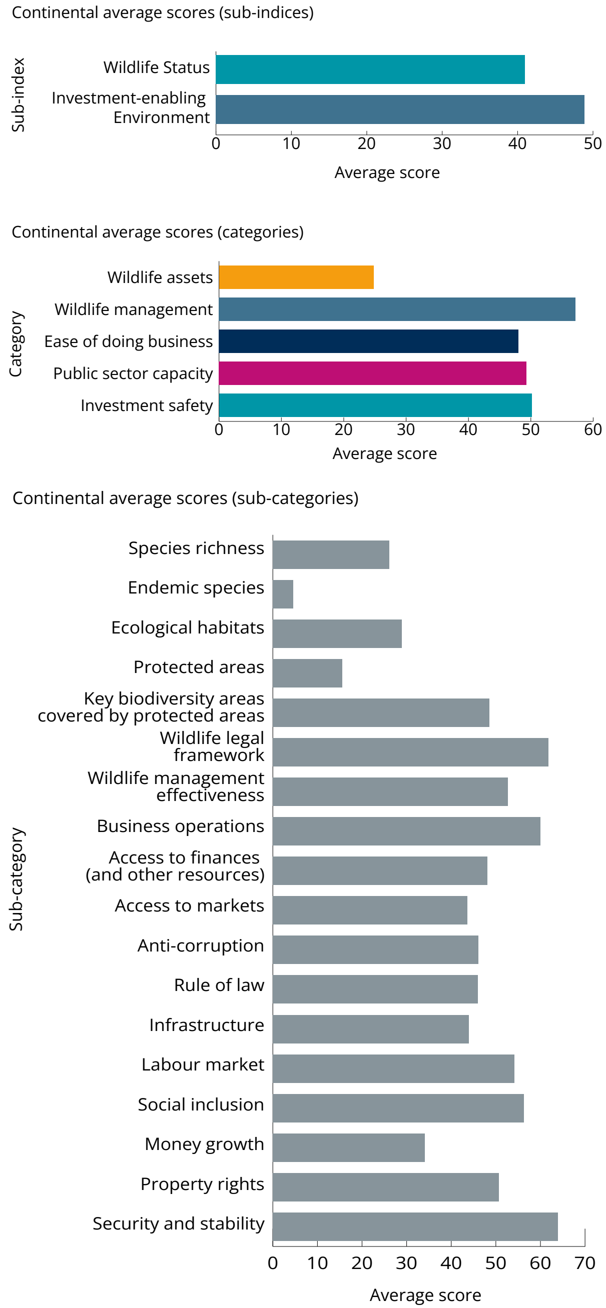
The very low average score for endemic species (4.58) further highlights the concentration of unique biodiversity in a limited number of countries. This emphasises the global responsibility of countries that host endemic species to prioritise their protection, as the loss of these species would represent permanent global biodiversity loss. **Enhancing conservation measures in biodiversity hotspots and protecting critical habitats will be essential to support long-term wildlife sustainability.**

Encouragingly, the wildlife management category records a high continental average score of 57.18, with particularly strong performance in the wildlife legal framework sub-category (61.72). This indicates that many African countries have established legal and policy foundations to support wildlife conservation. However, wildlife management effectiveness records a lower average score (52.64), highlighting the gap between the existence of legal frameworks and their effective implementation. **Bolstering institutional capacity, enforcement systems, and protected area management will be important to ensure that existing policies translate into tangible conservation outcomes.**

Beyond wildlife conservation, several priorities emerge within the investment-enabling environment. The ease of doing business category records an average score of 48.00, reflecting moderate conditions for enterprise activity. While the business operations sub-category records a relatively strong average score of 60.01, access to finances (and other resources) (48.04), access to markets (43.55), and anti-corruption (46.09) remain areas where further progress can support investment. Improving access to finance, especially for small and medium enterprises, can help unlock investment in wildlife-based sectors such as tourism, conservation enterprises, and sustainable land management.

Access to markets remains a particularly important priority. Limited market integration, regulatory barriers, and infrastructure gaps can constrain the ability of wildlife-based

Figure 35: Overview of the continental average scores



enterprises to grow and compete. **Promoting regional trade integration, improving logistics and transport connectivity, and supporting participation in regional and international markets can help enhance economic opportunities linked to wildlife resources.**

Public sector capacity also remains an important area for improvement, with a continental average score of 49.30. While social inclusion (56.28) and labour market conditions (54.13) show relatively stronger performance, infrastructure (43.88) and rule of law (45.98) remain areas of continued constraint. Infrastructure deficits, including transport networks, digital connectivity, and logistics systems, can limit access to wildlife areas and reduce the efficiency of wildlife-based tourism and conservation operations. **Strengthening infrastructure can improve connectivity, support economic activity, and enhance access to wildlife areas for both domestic and international visitors, as well as for the movement of wildlife products.**

Similarly, **strengthening the rule of law and governance systems will remain essential to support investment confidence.** Clear legal frameworks, consistent enforcement, and effective institutions help create stable environments in which conservation and wildlife-based enterprises can operate. The strong positive relationship between WEII v2 scores and governance indicators such as the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) and the Corruption Perceptions (CPI) Index further highlights the importance of governance quality in shaping wildlife economy investment readiness.

Investment safety conditions show moderate performance overall, with an average score of 50.13. Security and stability records the strongest performance among the three sub-categories within the investment safety category, with an average score of 63.94. This indicates that many African countries provide a baseline level of national stability that supports economic activity and investment. Property rights also show moderate performance (50.61), reflecting the presence of legal protections in many countries. However, money growth records a lower average score of 34.08, indicating variability in economic growth and financial performance across countries. **Strengthening economic stability, improving financial sector performance, and supporting sustained economic growth can help reinforce investment confidence and support long-term wildlife economy development.**

The moderate positive relationship between the Wildlife Status and Investment-enabling Environment Sub-indices further highlights the importance of balanced development. Some countries demonstrate strong wildlife assets but weaker investment conditions, while others show strong investment environments but more limited wildlife assets. This indicates that wildlife conservation and investment readiness do not always advance together. **A balanced approach that strengthens both wildlife conservation and enabling investment conditions will be important to unlock the full potential of the wildlife economy.**

The results also highlight important regional and structural differences across countries. Several countries, especially in southern and eastern Africa, demonstrate strong performance across both wildlife status and investment-enabling environment dimensions. These countries illustrate how strong conservation systems, effective governance, and supportive investment conditions can coexist. Other countries demonstrate strong biodiversity endowment but face institutional and governance constraints. Improving governance, infrastructure, and institutional capacity in these contexts can help unlock the economic potential of existing wildlife assets.

At the same time, some countries demonstrate strong governance and investment conditions but more limited wildlife assets. In these contexts, efforts to strengthen conservation systems, restore ecosystems, and expand protected and conserved areas can help enhance wildlife economy potential over time.

It is also important to recognise that the Wildlife Status Sub-index does not yet capture all dimensions of wildlife conservation. As noted in WEII v1, important indicators such as detailed species population data and implementation effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements are not yet fully available across countries. Efforts by ALU SOWC to establish Expert Groups and improve data availability will help strengthen future iterations of the WEII and provide a more complete picture of wildlife status across the continent.

The WEII v2 results highlight both Africa's strengths and its opportunities. The continent possesses globally significant wildlife assets and has made important progress in strengthening governance, legal frameworks, and investment conditions. At the same time, expanding protected and conserved areas, strengthening wildlife management effectiveness, improving infrastructure, enhancing access to finance and markets, and reinforcing governance systems will remain important priorities.

By addressing these priorities, African countries can further strengthen the foundations of their wildlife economies. This can help support conservation outcomes, attract sustainable investment, create economic opportunities, and contribute to long-term environmental and economic resilience across the continent.

Leaders and laggards

Across the 26 WEII components, including the overall Index, two sub-indices, five categories and eighteen sub-categories, performance patterns in Version 2 show both clear leaders and structurally constrained performers.

Seychelles and South Africa jointly emerge as the most consistent leaders, each appearing in the Top 5 in 14 components and in the Bottom 5 in none. Their strength spans both Wildlife Status and Investment-enabling Environment dimensions, reflecting balanced performance across conservation, governance, and investment safety indicators.

Mauritius follows with 12 Top 5 placements, although it also appears three times in the Bottom 5, largely reflecting comparatively limited wildlife assets. Botswana records 10 Top 5 placements and only one Bottom 5 appearance. Ghana and Namibia each appear nine times in the Top 5, without any Bottom 5 placements, indicating relatively consistent strength across governance and environmental indicators.

Other strong and broadly consistent performers include Rwanda and Tanzania (six Top 5), Morocco (five), Togo (four), Cabo Verde (four), and Madagascar (four). Some of these countries achieve Top 5 placements without appearing in the Bottom 5 at all, reflecting relatively balanced performance profiles.

Somalia records the highest number of Bottom 5 placements at 14, with no Top 5 appearances. Eritrea follows with 12 Bottom 5 placements, and Sudan with 11. Libya appears 13 times in the Bottom 5, although it records two Top 5 placements in specific components. South Sudan records nine Bottom 5 placements and one Top 5 placement in terms of ecological habitats. These patterns reflect persistent challenges across governance, investment safety, infrastructure, and management effectiveness.

Some countries combine strong ecological endowment with weaker enabling environments. Democratic Republic of the Congo records four Top 5 and seven Bottom 5 placements. Central African Republic records two Top 5 and seven Bottom 5 placements. Equatorial Guinea shows a similar mixed profile. Conversely, countries such as Mauritius and Cabo Verde demonstrate strong investment-enabling conditions alongside more limited wildlife asset performance.

Several countries do not appear in either the Top 5 or Bottom 5 in any component, including Burkina Faso, Burundi, Guinea, Mozambique, Uganda and Eswatini. Their profiles suggest broadly moderate performance across components, without extreme strengths or weaknesses.

Overall, WEII v2 highlights that leadership is associated with balanced strength across both conservation and enabling conditions, while frequent Bottom 5 appearances are often concentrated in countries facing wider structural constraints. Figures 36 and 37 display the frequency of countries in the Top 5 and Bottom 5 respectively.

Figure 36: Frequency in the Top 5

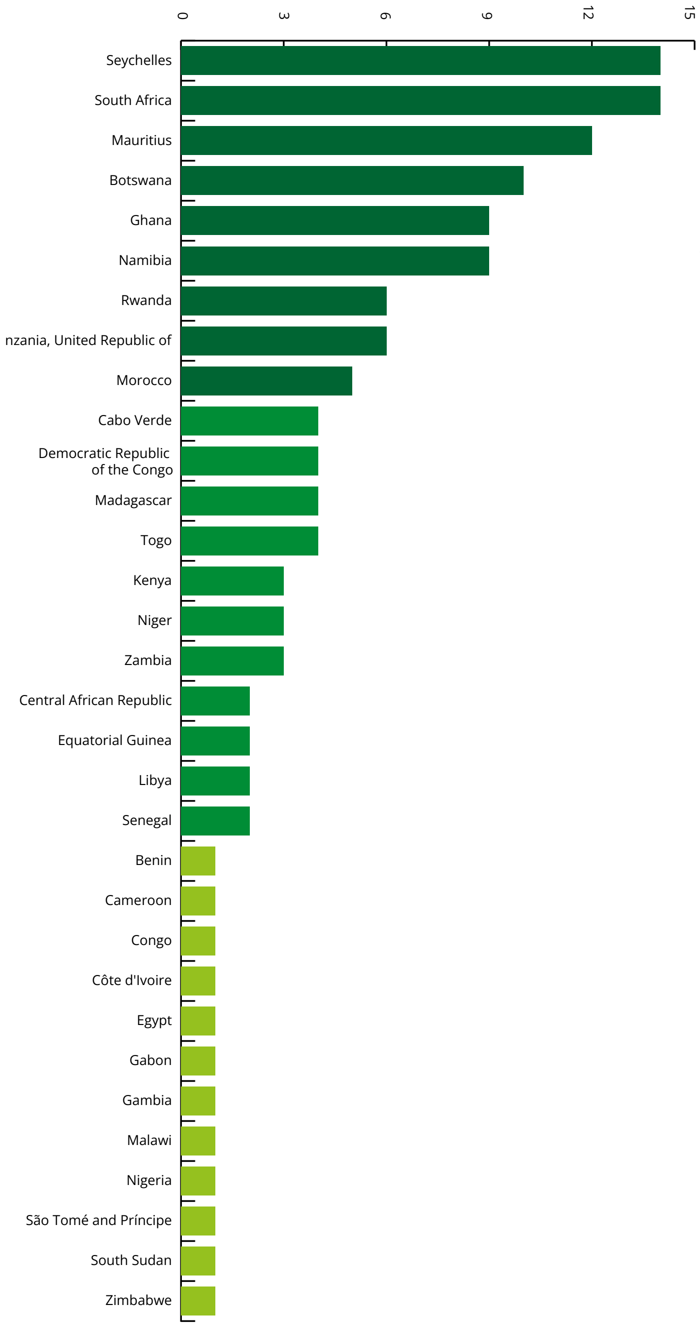
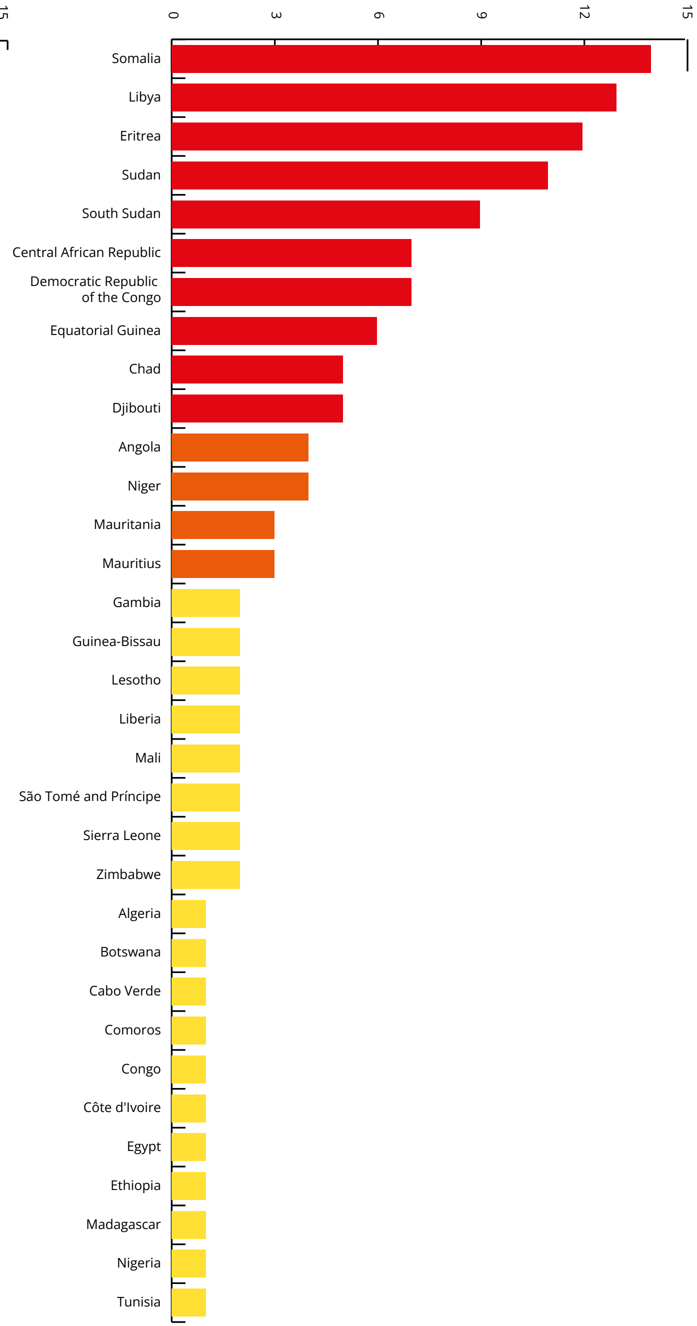


Figure 37: Frequency in the Bottom 5



REGIONAL PROFILES

Regional profiles

This section presents the WEII scores organised by various regional classifications, including Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union's regional groupings across Africa.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Table 1 presents average WEII scores across Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Clear regional differences emerge across both conservation and enabling environment dimensions.

Table 1: WEII performance of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Average scores are reported alongside the average ranks in parentheses.

Metric	CEN-SAD	COMESA	EAC	ECCAS	ECOWAS	IGAD	SADC	UMA	Highest scorer
Overall									
Overall score	42.87 (30)	43.43 (29)	45.54 (24)	41.51 (36)	47.16 (22)	36.11 (40)	49.52 (20)	42.19 (31)	SADC
WEII Sub-indices									
Wildlife Status	38.45 (32)	38.95 (31)	43.34 (23)	42.47 (25)	41.51 (27)	34.50 (41)	44.98 (20)	35.03 (36)	SADC
Investment-enabling Environment	47.38 (28)	47.90 (28)	47.73 (27)	40.40 (39)	52.81 (22)	37.71 (38)	54.06 (22)	49.34 (27)	SADC
WEII categories									
Wildlife assets	21.01 (34)	21.96 (32)	30.25 (20)	29.97 (19)	24.29 (29)	17.44 (38)	30.09 (19)	14.00 (44)	EAC
Wildlife management	55.88 (31)	55.95 (29)	56.43 (27)	54.97 (32)	58.73 (25)	51.57 (38)	59.87 (23)	56.06 (26)	SADC
Ease of doing business	47.02 (27)	46.42 (29)	47.32 (28)	39.16 (39)	52.56 (21)	41.95 (34)	51.40 (24)	43.97 (30)	ECOWAS
Public sector capacity	48.09 (28)	47.42 (30)	48.11 (27)	41.18 (37)	54.87 (21)	34.35 (41)	55.80 (22)	48.68 (28)	SADC
Investment safety	47.62 (28)	50.46 (25)	51.66 (24)	42.19 (37)	51.02 (26)	38.63 (35)	56.12 (20)	55.38 (19)	SADC
WEII sub-categories									
Species richness	20.19 (32)	26.22 (28)	40.09 (20)	29.72 (25)	21.82 (29)	26.93 (24)	36.05 (22)	10.80 (45)	EAC
Endemic species	1.06 (33)	6.93 (25)	8.16 (20)	5.22 (21)	0.67 (36)	2.73 (25)	11.52 (19)	0.65 (35)	SADC
Ecological habitats	22.95 (35)	27.62 (28)	37.94 (15)	39.12 (16)	28.37 (29)	25.19 (31)	32.68 (23)	10.20 (48)	ECCAS
Protected areas	13.00 (31)	12.97 (31)	13.97 (27)	16.93 (25)	11.18 (32)	9.10 (34)	21.12 (19)	12.25 (30)	SADC
Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	47.49 (27)	36.06 (35)	51.10 (27)	58.87 (22)	59.42 (20)	22.75 (41)	49.07 (28)	33.81 (36)	ECOWAS
Wildlife legal framework	60.08 (30)	59.43 (29)	60.53 (27)	57.91 (32)	66.50 (23)	51.56 (39)	66.10 (23)	58.21 (28)	ECOWAS
Wildlife management effectiveness	51.69 (32)	52.47 (28)	52.33 (26)	52.04 (28)	50.96 (35)	51.58 (31)	53.64 (24)	53.92 (22)	UMA
Business operations	60.49 (22)	59.41 (24)	63.42 (19)	51.41 (36)	64.11 (18)	56.14 (24)	60.72 (23)	58.91 (29)	ECOWAS
Access to finances (and other resources)	47.60 (26)	48.43 (23)	45.99 (24)	40.21 (34)	47.48 (26)	47.57 (24)	48.95 (24)	47.51 (25)	SADC
Access to markets	42.66 (27)	40.70 (30)	41.69 (29)	36.58 (37)	47.49 (21)	37.14 (33)	44.74 (26)	41.89 (28)	ECOWAS
Anti-corruption	44.73 (28)	45.21 (29)	42.93 (31)	34.55 (38)	51.14 (22)	38.80 (33)	53.01 (22)	40.53 (32)	SADC
Rule of law	44.47 (26)	41.17 (30)	43.74 (27)	32.82 (37)	53.95 (18)	31.67 (37)	56.57 (18)	41.89 (28)	SADC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Metric	CEN-SAD	COMESA	EAC	ECCAS	ECOWAS	IGAD	SADC	UMA	Highest scorer
WEII sub-categories									
Infrastructure	41.80 (28)	45.02 (26)	43.96 (25)	33.07 (36)	40.81 (28)	31.98 (36)	48.74 (23)	62.30 (14)	UMA
Labour market	55.00 (21)	54.61 (23)	58.42 (17)	48.27 (29)	59.26 (16)	49.56 (27)	54.94 (22)	43.07 (36)	ECOWAS
Social inclusion	55.14 (28)	51.10 (32)	55.74 (25)	51.54 (32)	65.70 (19)	38.82 (41)	62.22 (22)	47.80 (35)	ECOWAS
Money growth	32.78 (29)	40.01 (19)	40.35 (17)	28.43 (31)	34.46 (25)	35.32 (20)	36.76 (21)	36.65 (30)	EAC
Property rights	48.10 (26)	46.79 (27)	54.37 (21)	38.54 (35)	54.07 (23)	33.92 (34)	56.35 (22)	58.67 (19)	UMA
Security and stability	61.10 (28)	61.89 (29)	57.24 (33)	58.72 (33)	64.52 (25)	47.99 (39)	70.90 (21)	69.91 (22)	SADC

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) records the highest overall average score at 49.52. It also leads in both sub-indices, with the highest average scores in Wildlife Status and in the Investment-enabling Environment. This reflects relatively balanced regional performance across biodiversity, governance, infrastructure, and investment safety. SADC also ranks first in wildlife management, public sector capacity, investment safety, endemic species, protected areas, anti-corruption, rule of law, and security and stability. The region demonstrates particular strength in institutional and stability-related indicators, alongside comparatively strong conservation performance.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ranks second overall. It records the highest average score in ease of doing business and performs strongly in public sector capacity and wildlife legal frameworks. ECOWAS also leads in business operations, access to markets, labour market performance, social inclusion, and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. This suggests that ECOWAS's relative strength lies in regulatory systems, market access, and social frameworks, even where wildlife assets are more moderate.

The East African Community (EAC) ranks first in wildlife assets and species richness, and records the highest score in money growth. This reflects the strong biodiversity base of several east African countries and comparatively solid economic momentum. The region performs moderately across most enabling environment categories.

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) shows strength in ecological habitats, reflecting the importance of central Africa's forest and wetland systems. However, its overall and enabling environment scores remain below the continental leaders, indicating room to strengthen governance and market conditions.

The Union of the Arab Maghreb (UMA) records the highest scores in wildlife management effectiveness, infrastructure, and property rights. This suggests comparatively strong institutional and infrastructure foundations, although wildlife assets are more limited.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) records the lowest overall average score and lower scores across both sub-indices. While some member states perform well individually, regional averages indicate constraints in wildlife assets, public sector capacity, and security.

Overall, WEII v2 highlights that regional strengths differ markedly. These variations underline the importance of region-specific policy priorities within the broader continental wildlife economy framework.

African Union regions

Table 2 presents average WEII results across the five African Union regions. Clear contrasts appear between ecological endowment and investment-enabling conditions.

Southern Africa records the highest overall average score at 48.82. It also ranks first in both sub-indices, with comparatively strong results in Wildlife Status and in the Investment-enabling Environment. Southern Africa leads in wildlife management, public sector capacity, and security and stability, and performs strongly in rule of law, anti-corruption, and protected areas. This reflects a relatively balanced profile, combining biodiversity assets with institutional and governance capacity.

Western Africa ranks second overall, with an average score of 47.16. It performs strongly in ease of doing business and ranks first in wildlife legal framework, business operations, labour market performance, and social inclusion. Western Africa also shows comparatively strong performance in access to markets and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. These results suggest that the region's relative strengths lie in regulatory systems, market access, and social frameworks, while wildlife assets remain moderate overall.

Table 2: WEII performance of African Union regions

Average scores are reported alongside the average ranks in parentheses.

Metric	Eastern Africa	Central Africa	Northern Africa	Southern Africa	Western Africa	Highest scorer
Overall						
Overall score	43.26 (28)	40.58 (38)	42.51 (31)	48.82 (21)	47.16 (22)	Southern Africa
WEII Sub-indices						
Wildlife Status	39.29 (32)	43.38 (22)	35.38 (37)	43.72 (22)	41.51 (27)	Southern Africa
Investment-enabling Environment	47.22 (29)	37.46 (42)	49.64 (26)	53.92 (21)	52.81 (22)	Southern Africa
WEII categories						
Wildlife assets	23.00 (31)	31.84 (15)	15.01 (43)	27.48 (22)	24.29 (29)	Central Africa
Wildlife management	55.59 (30)	54.93 (32)	55.75 (29)	59.97 (24)	58.73 (25)	Southern Africa
Ease of doing business	48.31 (27)	35.78 (44)	45.52 (28)	51.98 (22)	52.56 (21)	Western Africa
Public sector capacity	45.58 (31)	38.77 (40)	49.02 (28)	55.80 (22)	54.87 (21)	Southern Africa
Investment safety	50.59 (24)	39.76 (40)	54.39 (20)	53.98 (22)	51.02 (26)	Northern Africa
WEII sub-categories						
Species richness	31.37 (24)	30.01 (25)	12.37 (42)	30.05 (24)	21.82 (29)	Eastern Africa
Endemic species	9.72 (20)	5.49 (21)	0.65 (35)	4.81 (25)	0.67 (36)	Eastern Africa
Ecological habitats	28.02 (28)	40.53 (14)	9.89 (49)	31.96 (24)	28.37 (29)	Central Africa
Protected areas	13.81 (29)	18.87 (23)	16.63 (25)	20.88 (18)	11.18 (32)	Southern Africa
Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	32.13 (37)	64.32 (18)	34.32 (36)	49.70 (29)	59.42 (20)	Central Africa
Wildlife legal framework	58.24 (30)	57.50 (32)	57.65 (30)	65.66 (25)	66.50 (23)	Western Africa
Wildlife management effectiveness	52.93 (27)	52.36 (27)	53.85 (22)	54.27 (22)	50.96 (35)	Southern Africa
Business operations	63.76 (16)	49.36 (40)	58.85 (29)	58.14 (27)	64.11 (18)	Western Africa
Access to finances (and other resources)	51.19 (21)	38.86 (36)	49.86 (22)	48.83 (24)	47.48 (26)	Eastern Africa
Access to markets	40.68 (30)	33.66 (41)	43.78 (26)	47.34 (22)	47.49 (21)	Western Africa
Anti-corruption	48.54 (26)	29.00 (44)	40.79 (32)	53.63 (20)	51.14 (22)	Southern Africa
Rule of law	41.08 (29)	29.27 (41)	40.05 (30)	57.61 (17)	53.95 (18)	Southern Africa
Infrastructure	41.00 (29)	30.48 (39)	65.86 (13)	49.74 (22)	40.81 (28)	Northern Africa
Labour market	58.85 (19)	46.96 (30)	44.06 (35)	52.04 (24)	59.26 (16)	Western Africa
Social inclusion	49.34 (32)	48.73 (35)	46.56 (37)	63.81 (21)	65.70 (19)	Western Africa
Money growth	36.89 (20)	27.54 (32)	35.13 (31)	35.97 (22)	34.46 (25)	Eastern Africa
Property rights	48.73 (25)	34.70 (38)	57.66 (19)	55.31 (23)	54.07 (23)	Northern Africa
Security and stability	60.70 (28)	55.58 (35)	69.45 (23)	70.67 (22)	64.52 (25)	Southern Africa

Eastern Africa records a mid-range overall score. It ranks first in species richness, endemic species, access to finance, and money growth. This reflects the region's strong biodiversity base and comparatively favourable financial access conditions. However, performance in rule of law and access to markets is more moderate, indicating scope to strengthen enabling conditions alongside conservation strengths.

Central Africa records the lowest overall average score. However, it ranks first in wildlife assets, ecological habitats, and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. This confirms the global importance of central Africa's forest and freshwater ecosystems. At the same time, the region records lower scores in investment-enabling categories, including public sector capacity, rule of law, and anti-corruption. The results highlight the contrast between strong natural asset endowment and more constrained governance and market conditions.

Northern Africa records moderate overall performance. It ranks first in investment safety, infrastructure, and property rights, and performs relatively well in wildlife management effectiveness. However, it records the lowest regional score in wildlife assets and species richness, reflecting more limited biodiversity under the indicators included.

Overall, WEII v2 highlights distinct regional profiles. Southern Africa demonstrates relative balance across conservation and enabling conditions. Western Africa shows regulatory and social strengths. Eastern Africa combines biodiversity and financial access advantages. Central Africa remains critical for ecological assets, while Northern Africa demonstrates institutional and infrastructure capacity. These patterns suggest that regional policy priorities may differ, with some regions focusing on strengthening governance and enabling conditions, and others prioritising conservation and biodiversity management within a broader wildlife economy framework.


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INVESTMENT AND COLLABORATION CLUSTERS

Investment and collaboration clusters

Cluster analysis helps to sort countries into groups based on similar traits. This makes it easier to see patterns, compare performance, and identify areas where investment may be worthwhile. By looking at each group as a whole, investors can better judge risks and opportunities. These groupings also highlight shared strengths and challenges, which can guide joint planning and action.

For African countries, working together can strengthen wildlife protection efforts and support long-term economic development. Sharing skills, resources, and experience can lead to more effective conservation and more stable growth. Protecting biodiversity and improving economic outcomes should not be seen as separate goals. With stronger cooperation across borders, countries can protect their natural heritage while building a secure and sustainable future.

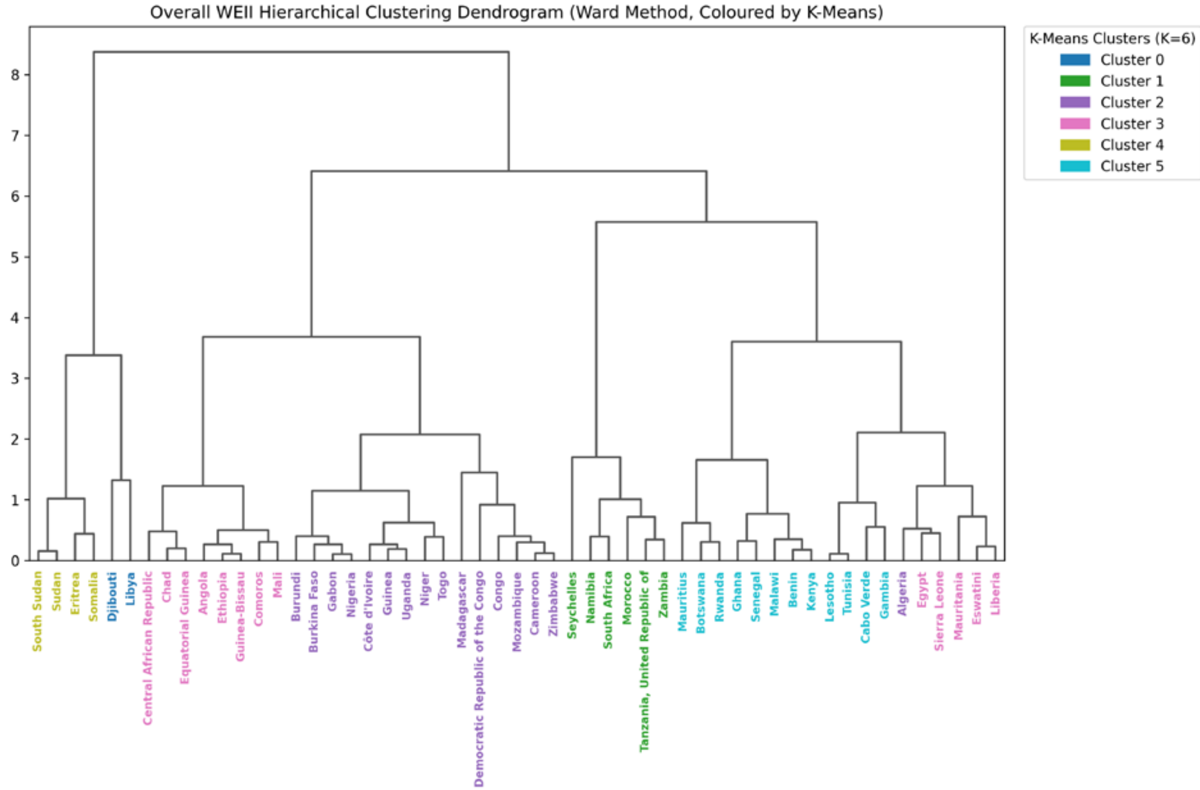
Clustering based on overall WEII score components

Cluster analysis was conducted using the two core dimensions of the WEII: the Wildlife Status Sub-index and the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index. The optimal number of clusters was six. The silhouette score of 0.397 indicates a moderate level of separation between groups, suggesting meaningful but not absolute distinctions across country profiles. The six clusters differ in both scale and character. See Table 3 and Figure 38 for more details.

Table 3: Cluster summary of overall WEII score components

Cluster	Wildlife Status Sub-index	Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index	Country count
0	21.62	45.8	2
1	50.96	64.11	6
2	46.04	46.01	16
3	38.27	40.74	13
4	30.72	24.9	4
5	38.8	62.35	12

Figure 38: Country clustering based on the overall WEII score components



Cluster 0: Divergent profile
Average Wildlife Status: 21.62
Average Investment-enabling Environment: 45.80
Countries (2): Djibouti, Libya

This small cluster presents a distinct pattern. Wildlife status scores are low, while investment-enabling conditions are comparatively stronger. This divergence suggests that ecological constraints, rather than purely institutional ones, may be key to performance gaps.

Policy responses in these contexts may focus more on habitat restoration, biodiversity enhancement, and targeted conservation investment.

Cluster 1: High wildlife status and strong investment conditions
Average Wildlife Status: 50.96
Average Investment-enabling Environment: 64.11
Countries (6): Morocco, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia

This cluster combines strong wildlife performance with comparatively robust investment conditions. Countries in this group tend to pair well-developed conservation assets with institutional and market environments that are relatively supportive of business activity. The coexistence of ecological strength and enabling conditions positions this cluster as comparatively well placed for wildlife economy expansion.

Collaboration within this group could focus on scaling higher-value activities, fostering cross-border tourism circuits and wildlife product markets, and sharing regulatory and financing models.

Cluster 2: Balanced mid-range performance
Average Wildlife Status: 46.04
Average Investment-enabling Environment: 46.01
Countries (16): Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe

This is the largest cluster. It reflects broadly balanced but mid-range performance across both sub-indices. Wildlife status is generally moderate to strong in several of these countries, yet investment conditions are more mixed. The relative alignment between the two dimensions suggests internal coherence but also highlights the need for targeted improvement of governance, market access, and investor confidence.

Regional cooperation among these countries could support knowledge exchange on conservation finance and regulatory reform.

Cluster 3: Lower wildlife and lower investment conditions
Average Wildlife Status: 38.27
Average Investment-enabling Environment: 40.74
Countries (13): Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Sierra Leone

This cluster reflects constraints across both ecological and investment enabling dimensions. While not uniformly weak, these countries face challenges in aligning conservation performance with conducive business environments. Joint efforts could prioritise institutional strengthening, wildlife management capacity, and regulatory clarity.

Partnerships with higher-performing clusters may provide practical pathways for incremental improvement.

Cluster 4: Structurally constrained contexts
Average Wildlife Status: 30.72
Average Investment-enabling Environment: 24.90
Countries (4): Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan

This cluster records the lowest averages across both sub-indices. The combination of limited wildlife status indicators and weak enabling conditions suggests structural constraints.

Progress in this group may depend heavily on stabilisation, institutional rebuilding, and foundational conservation support. Regional and continental cooperation mechanisms could play a significant role in supporting recovery and gradual improvement.

Cluster 5: Moderate wildlife status and strong investment environment
Average Wildlife Status: 38.80
Average Investment-enabling Environment: 62.35
Countries (12): Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia

This is the third largest cluster and reflects countries with relatively favourable investment climates but more moderate wildlife status outcomes. In several cases, the institutional and business foundations appear stronger than ecological indicators.

For investors, these countries may offer lower entry barriers and more predictable operating conditions. **From a policy perspective,** strengthening wildlife assets and conservation effectiveness could enhance long-term competitiveness in the wildlife economy.

Clustering based on Wildlife Status Sub-index components

This clustering focuses exclusively on the two core components of the Wildlife Status Sub-index: wildlife assets and wildlife management. **The objective is to understand how countries compare in terms of ecological endowment and the systems in place to manage and protect those assets.**

Six clusters were identified. The silhouette score of 0.365 indicates moderate separation between groups, suggesting that while distinctions are meaningful, performance across the continent remains part of a broad continuum. See Table 4 and Figure 39 for more details.

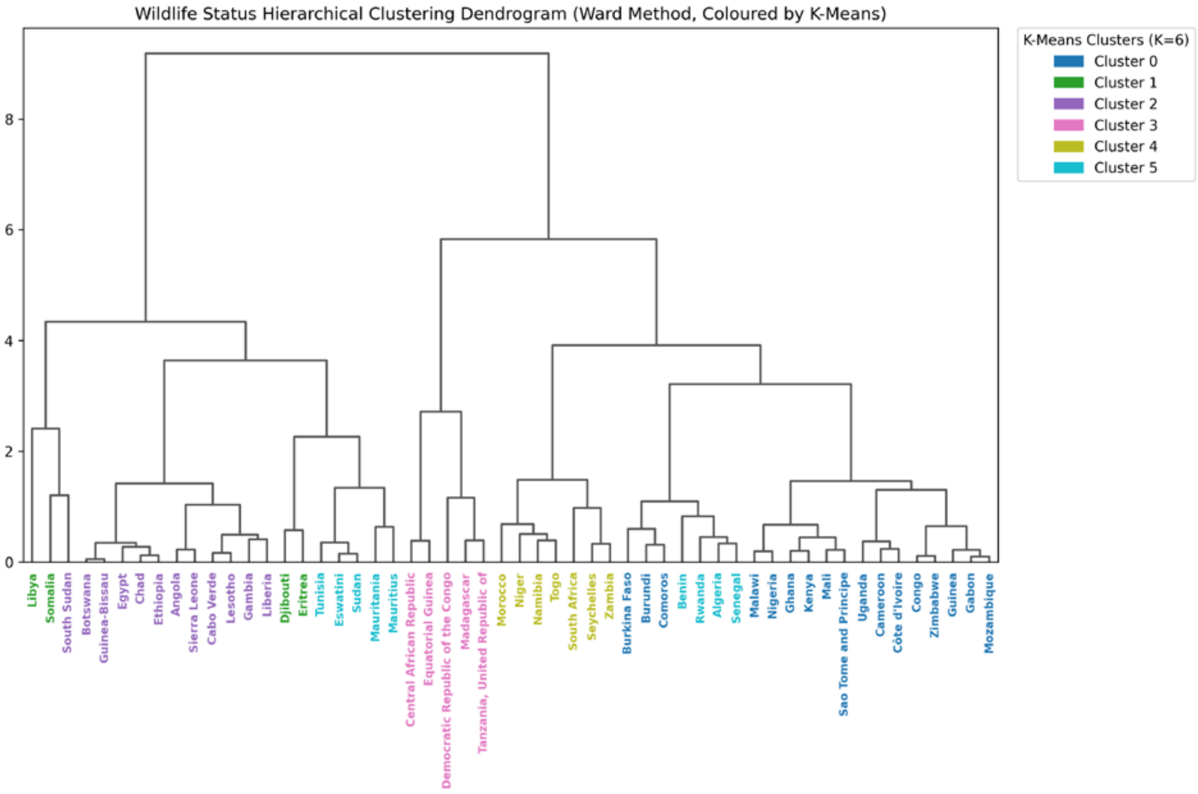
Table 4: Cluster summary of Wildlife Status Sub-index components

Cluster	Wildlife assets	Wildlife management	Country count
0	28.81	59.47	17
1	6.66	43.09	4
2	22	51.57	12
3	42.26	51.95	5
4	30.53	69.15	7
5	14.72	60.19	9

Cluster 0: Broad middle group with balanced performance
Average wildlife assets: 28.81
Average wildlife management: 59.47
Countries (17): Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Uganda, Zimbabwe

This is the largest cluster. It reflects countries with moderate wildlife asset scores and reasonably solid management systems. Neither dimension stands out as extreme, but the overall balance suggests functioning conservation systems with room for improvement.

Figure 39: Country clustering based on the Wildlife Status Sub-index components



For many of these countries, incremental strengthening of habitat protection, biodiversity monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms could elevate overall wildlife status. Given their number and geographic spread, cooperation within this cluster could support shared technical standards and cross-border conservation corridors.

Cluster 1: Structurally constrained wildlife status
Average wildlife assets: 6.66
Average wildlife management: 43.09
Countries (4): Djibouti, Eritrea, Libya, Somalia

This small cluster records the lowest wildlife asset scores and weaker management performance. Structural factors, ecological constraints, and governance challenges likely shape these outcomes.

Progress in this group may depend on foundational conservation support, stabilisation, and targeted ecological interventions. Regional partnerships and technical cooperation could help improve baseline systems and data collection.

Cluster 2: Moderate assets and moderate management
Average wildlife assets: 22.00
Average wildlife management: 51.57
Countries (12): Angola, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan

This cluster reflects mid-range performance across both components. Wildlife assets are present but not among the highest, and management systems are functional but not leading. The pattern suggests countries where ecological potential exists but may not be fully developed or supported by strong institutional systems.

Strategic focus on targeted habitat protection and strengthened governance frameworks could gradually improve wildlife status outcomes.

Cluster 3: High wildlife assets with moderate management
Average wildlife assets: 42.26
Average wildlife management: 51.95
Countries (5): Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Tanzania

This cluster reflects countries with some of the strongest wildlife asset scores on the continent. High biodiversity, extensive ecological habitats, and significant protected areas underpin this grouping. Wildlife management performance is moderate rather than leading, which suggests that institutional capacity and implementation may not always match ecological richness.

For policymakers and investors, these countries represent strong ecological foundations. Strengthening management effectiveness, enforcement, and long-term conservation finance mechanisms could enhance sustainability and improve the alignment between ecological potential and institutional performance.

Cluster 4: Strong management performance with solid asset base
Average wildlife assets: 30.53
Average wildlife management: 69.15
Countries (7): Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Zambia

This cluster combines comparatively strong wildlife management systems with moderate to strong asset scores. Institutional arrangements, legal frameworks, and operational effectiveness appear to be relatively robust. Countries in this group demonstrate that management quality can be a distinguishing feature, even where ecological assets are not the highest on the continent.

For regional collaboration, this cluster may serve as a reference point for regulatory reform, protected area governance, and management planning. Their experience may offer practical insights to other clusters seeking to improve implementation capacity.

Cluster 5: Lower asset base but comparatively strong management
Average wildlife assets: 14.72
Average wildlife management: 60.19
Countries (9): Algeria, Benin, Eswatini, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia

In this group, wildlife asset scores are relatively low, yet management indicators are stronger. This pattern may reflect countries with more limited biodiversity endowments or geographical constraints, but with comparatively structured management approaches.

For these countries, improving wildlife assets may require long-term ecological restoration, landscape connectivity initiatives, and investment in protected and conserved area expansion. The institutional foundation is present, which may facilitate such efforts over time.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Clustering based on Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index components

This clustering focuses on the three core components of the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index: ease of doing business, public sector capacity, and investment safety. The analysis identifies two broad groups of countries with distinct institutional and regulatory profiles. The silhouette score of 0.454 indicates relatively clear separation between the clusters. See Table 5 and Figure 40 for more details.

Table 5: Cluster summary of Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index components

Cluster	Ease of doing business	Public sector capacity	Investment safety	Country count
0	58.13	60.83	60.36	25
1	39.56	39.42	40.29	26

Cluster 0: Stronger institutional and investment environments

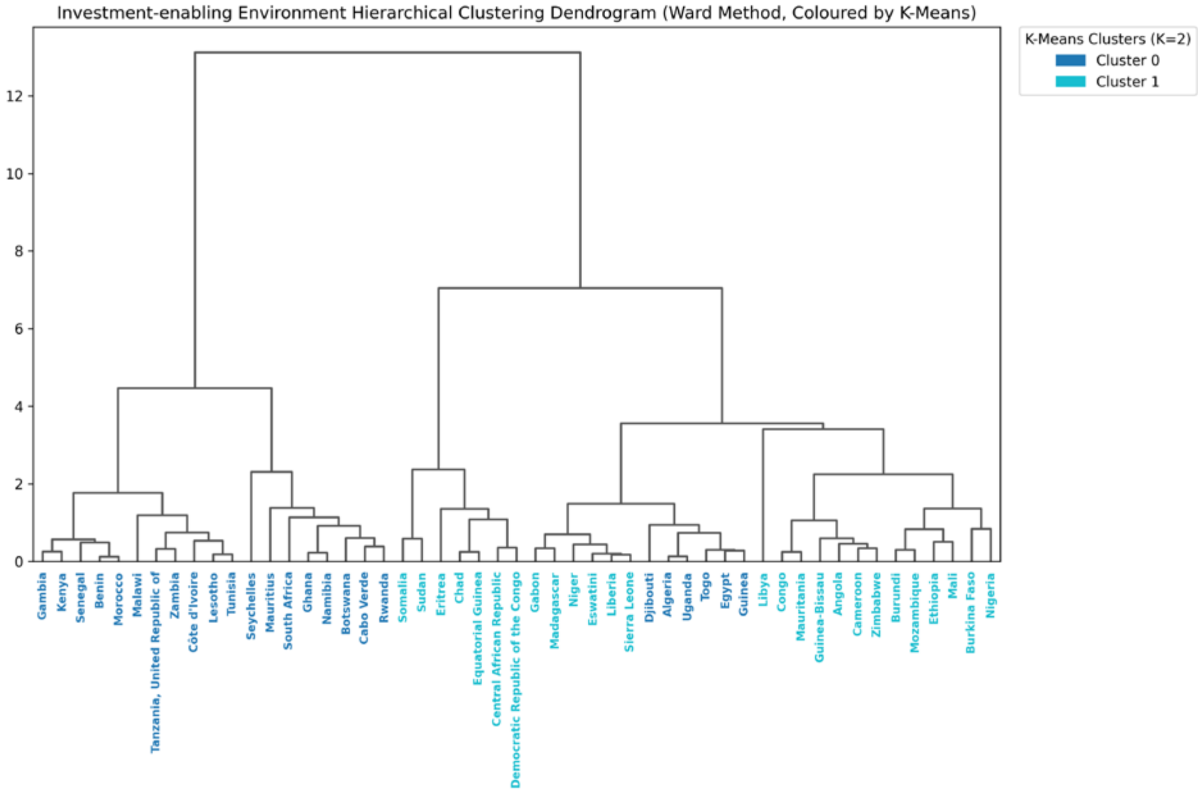
Average ease of doing business: 58.13
Average public sector capacity: 60.83
Average investment safety: 60.36
Countries (25): Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia

This cluster brings together countries that demonstrate comparatively stronger performance across all three components. **The defining feature of this group is consistency.** Business regulations tend to be more predictable, administrative systems more capable, and investment environments more secure relative to the continental average. Public sector capacity scores suggest functioning institutions and administrative systems that are better positioned to design and implement policy. Investment safety scores indicate comparatively lower levels of perceived risk for investors.

Within this cluster, there is variation. Some countries stand out for particularly high institutional strength, such as Mauritius and Seychelles, while others show balanced but moderate performance. However, the overall profile reflects environments where wildlife economy investments are more likely to operate within clearer regulatory frameworks and more stable governance conditions.

For investors, this cluster may represent relatively lower operational uncertainty. **For policymakers,** the focus may shift from foundational reform to improving efficiency, deepening regulatory quality, and enhancing transparency. Cross-country collaboration within this group could centre on advanced policy tools, digitalisation of services, and sustainable finance mechanisms.

Figure 40: Country clustering based on the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index components



Cluster 1: Structurally constrained investment environments

Average ease of doing business: 39.56
Average public sector capacity: 39.42
Average investment safety: 40.29
Countries (26): Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Zimbabwe

This group is characterised by lower average scores across all three components. Administrative processes may be more complex or less predictable. Public sector capacity scores indicate constraints in institutional strength, regulatory enforcement, or service delivery. Investment safety scores suggest higher levels of perceived risk or uncertainty.

It is important to note that this cluster does not imply a uniform situation. Some countries within the group show pockets of relative strength. For example, Libya records a relatively higher investment safety score compared to its ease of doing business score. Nigeria shows moderate public sector capacity relative to its other indicators. These variations indicate that reform pathways may differ by country. For many countries in this cluster, enhancing the investment-enabling environment may involve foundational reforms. These can include regulatory simplification, capacity building within public institutions, improvements in transparency and accountability, and strengthening mechanisms that protect investors and property rights. Progress in these areas can help reduce uncertainty and improve confidence among both domestic and international investors.

Collaboration can occur both within and across clusters. Countries in Cluster 0 may share regulatory approaches, digital systems, and public sector reform experiences with peers in Cluster 1. Regional organisations can support technical exchange on investment safety frameworks, business licensing reforms, and public administration strengthening. At the same time, investment strategies should recognise diversity within clusters. Some countries may require targeted improvements in a single component, such as investment safety, while others may need broader institutional reform.

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Clustering based on wildlife assets components

This clustering focuses on the five components that make up the wildlife assets category: species richness, endemic species, ecological habitats, protected areas, and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. The analysis identifies two broad groups of countries with distinct ecological profiles. The silhouette score (0.416) indicates a reasonably clear separation between the clusters. See Table 6 and Figure 41 for more details.

Cluster 0: Broad continental baseline
Average species richness: 21.43
Average endemic species: 1.62
Average ecological habitats: 28.52
Average protected areas: 15.09
Average KBAs covered by protected areas: 50.17
Countries (47): Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

This cluster includes the majority of African countries. Its overall profile reflects moderate species richness, very low endemic species scores, moderate ecological habitat coverage, limited protected area coverage, and relatively stronger performance in key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas.

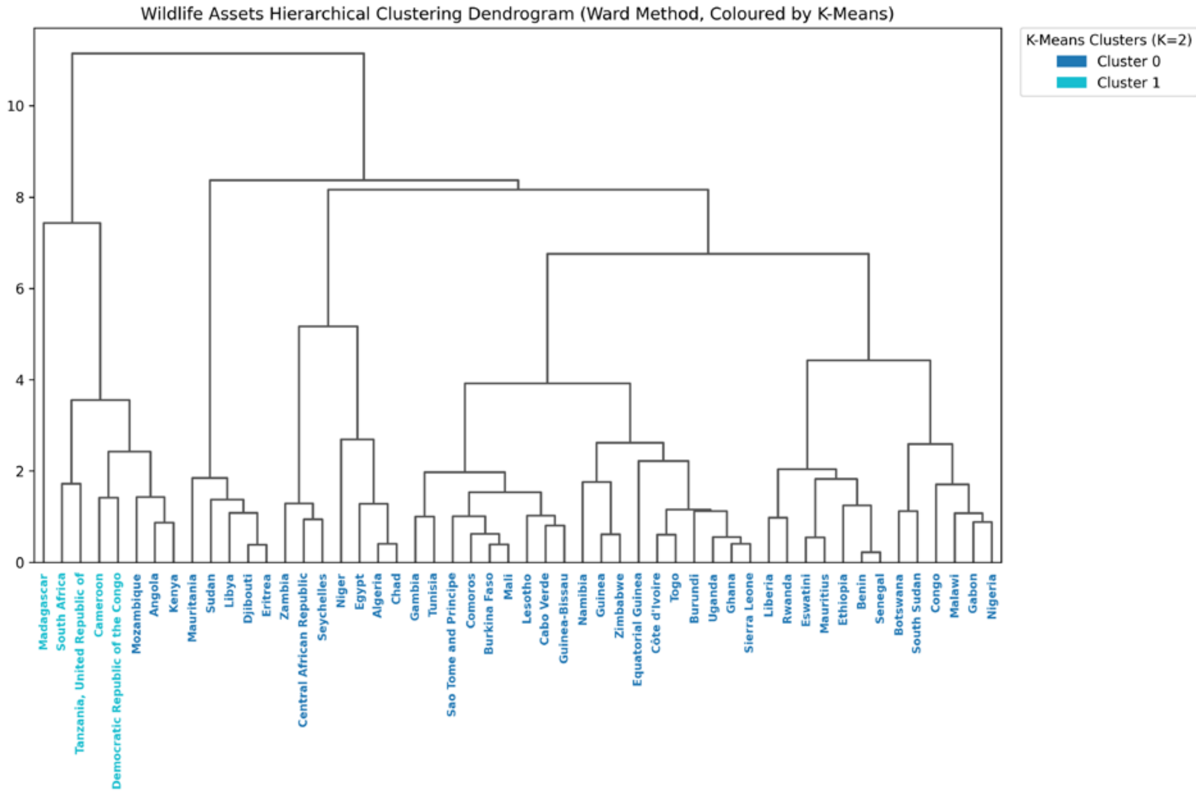
The defining characteristic of this group is diversity without extreme concentration. Many countries in this cluster possess meaningful wildlife resources and ecological habitats, but these assets are more evenly distributed and less globally distinctive in terms of endemic species. Endemism is limited in most cases, reflecting continental rather than isolated island or highly unique ecosystems. Ecological habitats vary across this group. Some countries, such as Gabon, Congo, Nigeria, Zambia, and South Sudan, show strong habitat scores linked to forests, wetlands, or savannah systems. Others, particularly arid or semi-arid countries, record lower habitat values. Protected area coverage is also uneven. Some members, such as the Central African Republic, Niger, Zambia, and Seychelles, record high protection levels, while others maintain relatively limited formal conservation coverage.

Importantly, this cluster includes countries with significant ecological importance even if they do not reach the highest levels of species richness or endemism. Several central and west African countries, for example, host extensive forest systems and high biodiversity but fall below the threshold that distinguishes the second cluster.

Table 6: Cluster summary of wildlife assets components

Cluster	Species richness	Endemic species	Ecological habitats	Protected areas	Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	Country count
0	21.43	1.62	28.52	15.09	50.17	47
1	71.3	33.09	37.31	20	41.07	5

Figure 41: Country clustering based on the wildlife assets components



For policymakers, this group represents the continental core of wildlife assets. The priority may not be dramatic expansion of species diversity, but rather strengthening habitat integrity, improving connectivity, and ensuring that protected areas are effectively managed. **For investors,** wildlife-based opportunities may be viable, but project design will often depend on specific ecosystems rather than globally unique species.

Cluster 1: High biodiversity concentration
Average species richness: 71.3
Average endemic species: 33.09
Average ecological habitats: 37.31
Average protected areas: 20
Average KBAs covered by protected areas: 41.07
Countries (5): Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, South Africa, Tanzania

This cluster stands apart due to exceptionally high species richness and significantly higher endemic species scores. These countries also demonstrate relatively strong ecological habitat scores and moderate protected area coverage.

The most distinctive feature is biodiversity concentration. Madagascar, Tanzania, and South Africa show very high species richness. Madagascar stands out for its exceptional endemic species score, reflecting its long geographic isolation and unique evolutionary history. Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo also demonstrate high levels of species richness and meaningful endemism, linked to forest ecosystems and varied ecological zones. Ecological habitats in this cluster are generally extensive and diverse, ranging from tropical forests to savannah and coastal systems. Protected area coverage is moderate to strong in several cases, though not uniformly high. Key biodiversity area coverage is not necessarily the highest among all countries, indicating that while biodiversity is rich, formal protection of all critical sites may still vary.

This cluster represents the continent's most concentrated centres of biodiversity. From a conservation perspective, these countries hold a disproportionate share of Africa's ecological wealth. From a wildlife economy perspective, the presence of diverse and distinctive species creates strong potential for ecotourism, conservation finance, and research partnerships.

However, high biodiversity concentration also implies greater conservation responsibility. Pressures on habitats, species decline, and land use change in these countries may carry wider ecological consequences beyond national borders.

This does not suggest that Cluster 0 countries lack ecological value. Many host large ecosystems, important migration routes, and significant habitat areas. However, the scale of species richness and uniqueness differs markedly from the five countries in Cluster 1. Countries in Cluster 1 may focus on global biodiversity leadership, research collaboration, and conservation financing linked to unique ecosystems. Countries in Cluster 0 may prioritise strengthening protected and conserved area networks, improving management effectiveness, and integrating wildlife assets into broader land use planning.

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Clustering based on wildlife management components

This clustering focuses on the two components of the wildlife management category: the wildlife legal framework and wildlife management effectiveness. The analysis identifies five distinct groups of countries with different combinations of legal structure and practical implementation. The silhouette score (0.38) indicates a reasonable level of separation between clusters. See Table 7 and Figure 42 for more details.

Table 7: Cluster summary of wildlife management components

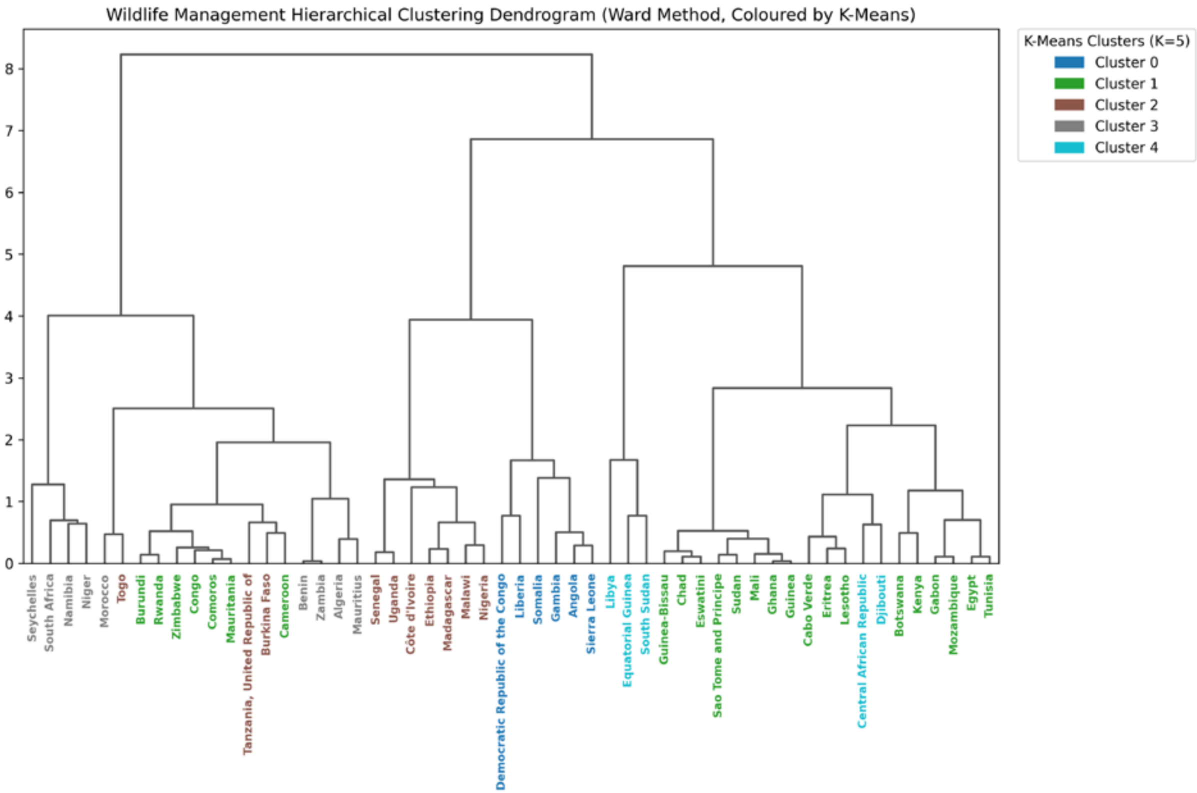
Cluster	Wildlife legal framework	Wildlife management effectiveness	Country count
0	53.07	45	6
1	60	53.36	24
2	73.66	49.59	10
3	76.19	58.53	9
4	30.43	53.85	5

Cluster 0: Moderate legal framework, lower effectiveness
Average wildlife legal framework: 53.07
Average wildlife management effectiveness: 45
Countries (6): Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia

Legal frameworks in this group are moderate, but management effectiveness scores are comparatively lower. This suggests that while formal structures may exist, operational implementation faces constraints. In some cases, this may relate to resource limitations, enforcement challenges, or institutional instability. In others, it may reflect pressures on ecosystems that outpace management capacity.

For this group, strengthening institutional effectiveness and operational capacity appears important. Legal reform alone may not be sufficient. Investments in enforcement, monitoring, and local management structures may help improve outcomes.

Figure 42: Country clustering based on the wildlife management components



Cluster 1: Balanced, moderate-to-strong performance
Average wildlife legal framework: 60
Average wildlife management effectiveness: 53.36
Countries (24): Botswana, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sudan, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

This is the largest cluster and represents a middle ground. Both legal frameworks and management effectiveness are moderate to relatively strong, though not at the highest levels observed in Cluster 3. The alignment between law and practice appears more consistent than in Cluster 2, but overall intensity is slightly lower.

This cluster reflects the continental norm for wildlife governance. Foundational legal commitments are in place and implementation systems function to a reasonable extent. Performance is not uniform across all indicators, but overall coherence is evident.

For policymakers, incremental improvement rather than structural reform may be the priority. Fostering inter-agency coordination, improving financing stability, and enhancing data systems could consolidate gains. **For investors,** these countries may offer workable but varied wildlife governance environments.

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Cluster 2: Very strong legal frameworks, moderate effectiveness
Average wildlife legal framework: 73.66
Average wildlife management effectiveness: 49.59
Countries (10): Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda

These countries record very high legal framework scores but only moderate management effectiveness. The gap suggests that strong legislative commitments and policy alignment are present, yet practical implementation remains uneven. This pattern may reflect capacity constraints, resource limitations, enforcement challenges, or administrative fragmentation. It does not imply weak governance overall, but rather highlights the difference between policy adoption and operational execution.

For this cluster, **the policy focus** may centre on advancing enforcement mechanisms, improving protected area management systems, investing in ranger capacity, and enhancing environmental monitoring. **For development partners,** targeted support for implementation capacity may yield meaningful improvements.

Cluster 3: Strong legal frameworks, strong effectiveness
Average wildlife legal framework: 76.19
Average wildlife management effectiveness: 58.53
Countries (9): Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Niger, Mauritius, Morocco, Algeria, Benin, Zambia

This cluster records the highest combined performance across both components. These countries demonstrate well-developed legal frameworks alongside relatively strong management effectiveness. In practical terms, this suggests a degree of alignment between formal legislation and on-the-ground conservation performance. Legal participation in international agreements, national biodiversity strategies, and regulatory clarity appear to be supported by functioning institutions and operational capacity.

For investors and conservation partners, this cluster presents relatively predictable governance conditions within the wildlife sector. **For policymakers,** the emphasis may shift from establishing new laws towards refining implementation quality, improving monitoring systems, and ensuring long-term institutional resilience.

Cluster 4: Weak legal framework, moderate effectiveness
Average wildlife legal framework: 30.43
Average wildlife management effectiveness: 53.85
Countries (5): Central African Republic, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, South Sudan

Here, legal framework scores are relatively low, yet management effectiveness is moderate. This combination suggests that certain management activities may be taking place despite limited formal legislative strength or incomplete international alignment. The pattern may reflect informal practices, decentralised systems, or partial institutional development. It may also indicate that some conservation activities are occurring without comprehensive legal codification.

For policymakers, strengthening legal clarity and formal commitments could provide a more stable foundation for existing management efforts. **For investors,** regulatory certainty may be a key consideration.

Clustering based on ease of doing business components

This clustering focuses on the four components that make up the ease of doing business category: business operations, access to finances (and other resources), access to markets, and anti-corruption. The analysis identifies two broad groups of countries with clearly different business environment profiles. The silhouette score (0.353) indicates a reasonable level of separation between the clusters. See Table 8 and Figure 43 for more details.

Cluster 0: Stronger business environments
Average business operations: 66.95
Average access to finances (and other resources): 56.6
Average access to market:s: 53.77
Average anti-corruption: 61.59
Countries (22): Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia

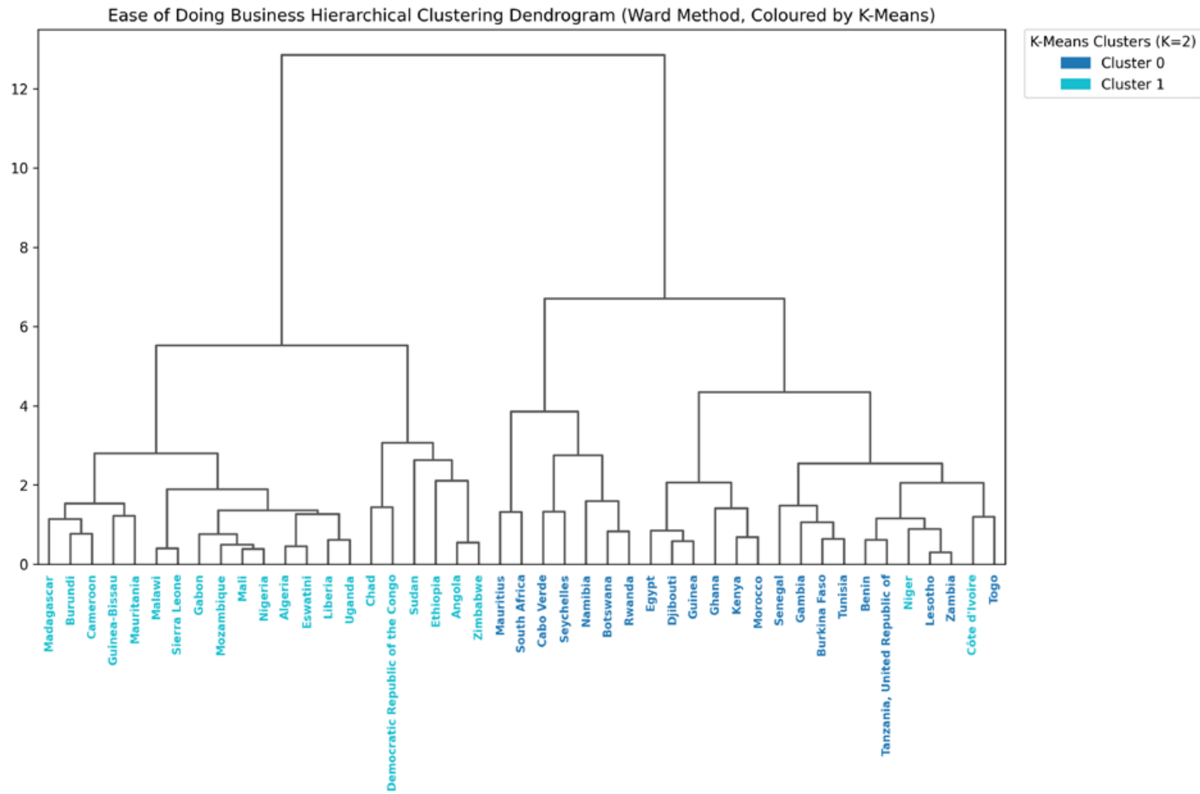
This cluster records consistently higher scores across all four components. On average, countries in this group perform well in business operations, demonstrate better access to finance, show stronger market connectivity, and score higher on corruption control. While performance varies within the cluster, the overall profile reflects a relatively conducive environment for private sector activity.

Business operations scores in this cluster indicate fewer procedural barriers to starting and running enterprises. Access to finance is comparatively stronger, suggesting more developed banking systems, credit access, or capital availability. Market access is also more robust, which may reflect trade integration, logistics capacity, or domestic market scale. The corruption component is particularly important. Higher scores suggest stronger institutional safeguards and greater predictability for investors. While no system is without challenges, this cluster generally offers more transparent operating conditions.

Table 8: Cluster summary of ease of doing business components

Cluster	Business operations	Access to finances (and other resources)	Access to markets	Anti-corruption	Country count
0	66.95	56.6	53.77	61.59	22
1	54.58	41.01	38.64	37.32	23

Figure 43: Country clustering based on the ease of doing business components



For governments within this group, the policy challenge may focus on consolidation rather than transformation. Refining regulatory systems, improving competition policy, and strengthening digital governance may help maintain momentum. **For investors,** these countries present relatively lower entry barriers and clearer institutional frameworks.

Cluster 1: Constrained business environments
Average business operations: 54.58
Average access to finances (and other resources): 41.01
Average access to market:s: 38.64
Average anti-corruption: 37.32
Countries (23): Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia,

Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe

This cluster records lower average performance across all four components.

The defining feature of this cluster is cumulative constraint. Business operations scores are lower, indicating more complex administrative processes or regulatory burdens. Access to finance is weaker, which may reflect limited credit markets, higher borrowing costs, or lower financial inclusion. Market access scores suggest constraints in trade connectivity or domestic competitiveness.

Corruption scores are also lower on average, pointing to institutional challenges that may affect predictability and business confidence. It is important to note that this cluster is not uniform. Some countries perform reasonably in one or two components but fall below the stronger group when considering the overall profile. For example, some countries show moderate business operations scores but weaker access to finance or corruption control.

For policymakers in this cluster, reform priorities may include simplifying administrative procedures, strengthening financial sector depth, enhancing trade facilitation, and improving institutional integrity. Structural reform rather than incremental adjustment may be required in some cases. **For investors,** opportunities may still exist, especially in high-growth sectors. However, engagement may require stronger risk assessment, local partnerships, and long-term positioning.

For regional cooperation, the clustering suggests scope for knowledge exchange. Countries in Cluster 0 may share regulatory reform experience, digital systems development, and anti-corruption strategies with peers in Cluster 1.

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Clustering based on public sector capacity components

This clustering focuses on the four components that make up the public sector capacity category: rule of law, infrastructure, labour market performance, and social inclusion. The analysis identifies two broad groups of countries with distinct governance and institutional profiles. The silhouette score (0.365) suggests a reasonable separation between the two clusters. See Table 9 and Figure 44 for more details.

Cluster 0: Stronger public sector capacity
Average rule of law: 65.74
Average infrastructure: 56.25
Average labour market: 62.55
Average social inclusion: 71
Countries (17): Benin, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia

This cluster records consistently higher scores across all four components. On average, countries in this group demonstrate stronger rule of law, more developed infrastructure systems, more effective labour markets, and higher levels of social inclusion. While there is variation within the cluster, the overall pattern reflects comparatively robust institutional and governance foundations.

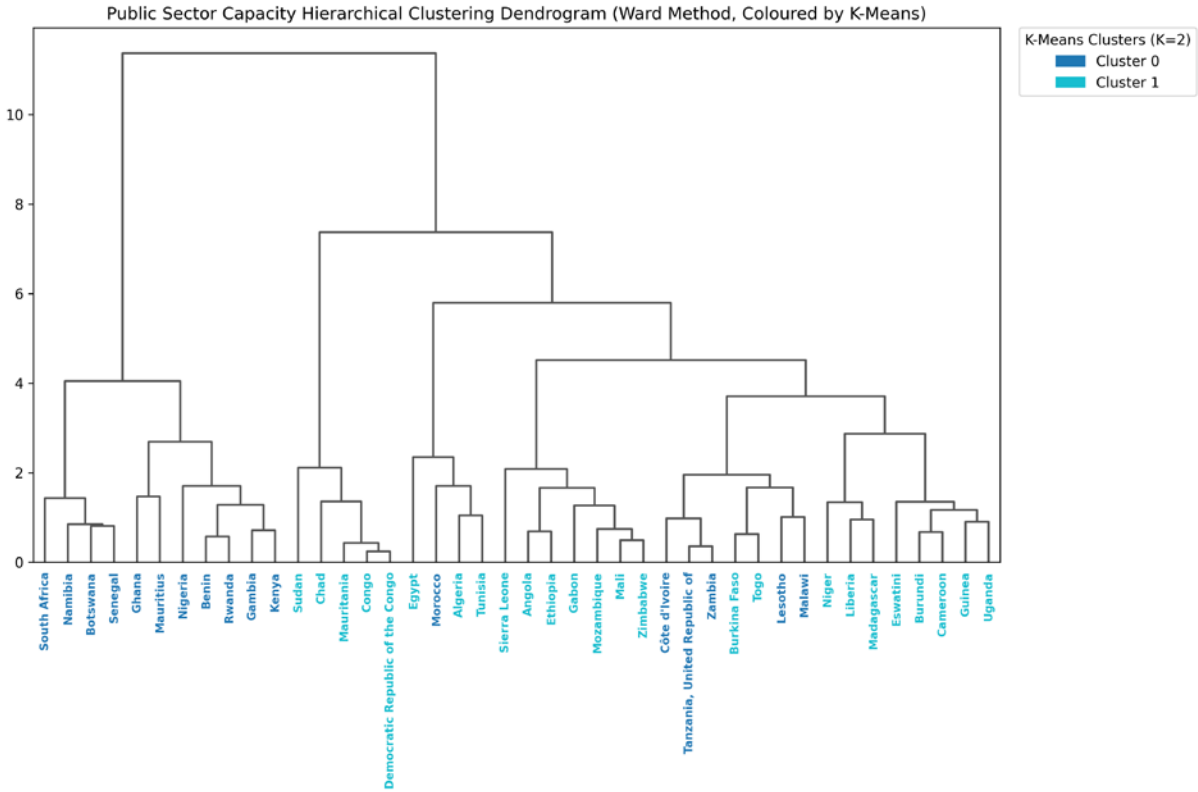
Higher rule of law scores indicate stronger legal systems, greater predictability in enforcement, and more reliable institutional processes. Infrastructure scores suggest better transport, energy, and communications networks, which are critical for economic activity, including wildlife-based enterprises. Labour market performance reflects more flexible or productive employment systems, while stronger social inclusion indicates broader access to opportunities and public services.

For governments in this cluster, the policy focus may be on sustaining institutional quality and addressing emerging pressures such as urbanisation, youth employment, and climate resilience. **For investors,** these countries offer comparatively stable governance environments and clearer institutional frameworks.

Table 9: Cluster summary of public sector capacity components

Cluster	Rule of law	Infrastructure	Labour market	Social inclusion	Country count
0	65.74	56.25	62.55	71	17
1	38.47	37.05	47.28	52.7	25

Figure 44: Country clustering based on the public sector capacity components



Cluster 1: Constrained public sector capacity
Average rule of law: 38.47
Average infrastructure: 37.05
Average labour market: 47.28
Average social inclusion: 52.7
Countries (25): Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe

This cluster records lower average scores across the four components. **The defining feature of this cluster is weaker institutional coherence across several dimensions.** Rule of law scores are lower on average, suggesting more limited judicial effectiveness or enforcement consistency. Infrastructure scores are also lower, indicating constraints in transport or logistics systems that can affect business operations and service delivery. Labour market performance and social inclusion scores are more moderate but remain below those of the stronger cluster. In some countries, labour

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markets function relatively well despite infrastructure or legal constraints. In others, social inclusion is comparatively stronger than rule of law or infrastructure. However, when assessed collectively, the overall profile reflects systemic institutional challenges.

It is important to recognise that this cluster is diverse. Some countries show strong performance in one component but weaker performance in others. For example, certain countries demonstrate solid labour market or social inclusion scores but face infrastructure or governance limitations. **The clustering reflects overall patterns rather than uniform weakness.**

For policymakers in this group, reform priorities may include promoting judicial independence, improving regulatory enforcement, investing in infrastructure networks, and enhancing inclusive access to services and economic opportunities. Institutional reform and infrastructure development often require sustained, long-term investment. **For investors,** these environments may require stronger risk assessment and partnership strategies. Public sector constraints do not eliminate opportunity, but they may increase transaction costs and uncertainty.

For regional cooperation, there is scope for knowledge sharing on judicial reform, infrastructure planning, and inclusive policy design. Countries in Cluster 0 may offer practical lessons on institutional strengthening and integrated governance approaches.

Clustering based on investment safety components

This clustering examines the three components that form the investment safety category: money growth, property rights, and security and stability. The analysis identifies five distinct groups of countries with different combinations of macroeconomic performance, legal protection of assets, and overall stability. The silhouette score (0.334) indicates moderate separation between clusters, suggesting meaningful structural differences. See Table 10 and Figure 45 for more details.

Table 10: Cluster summary of investment safety components

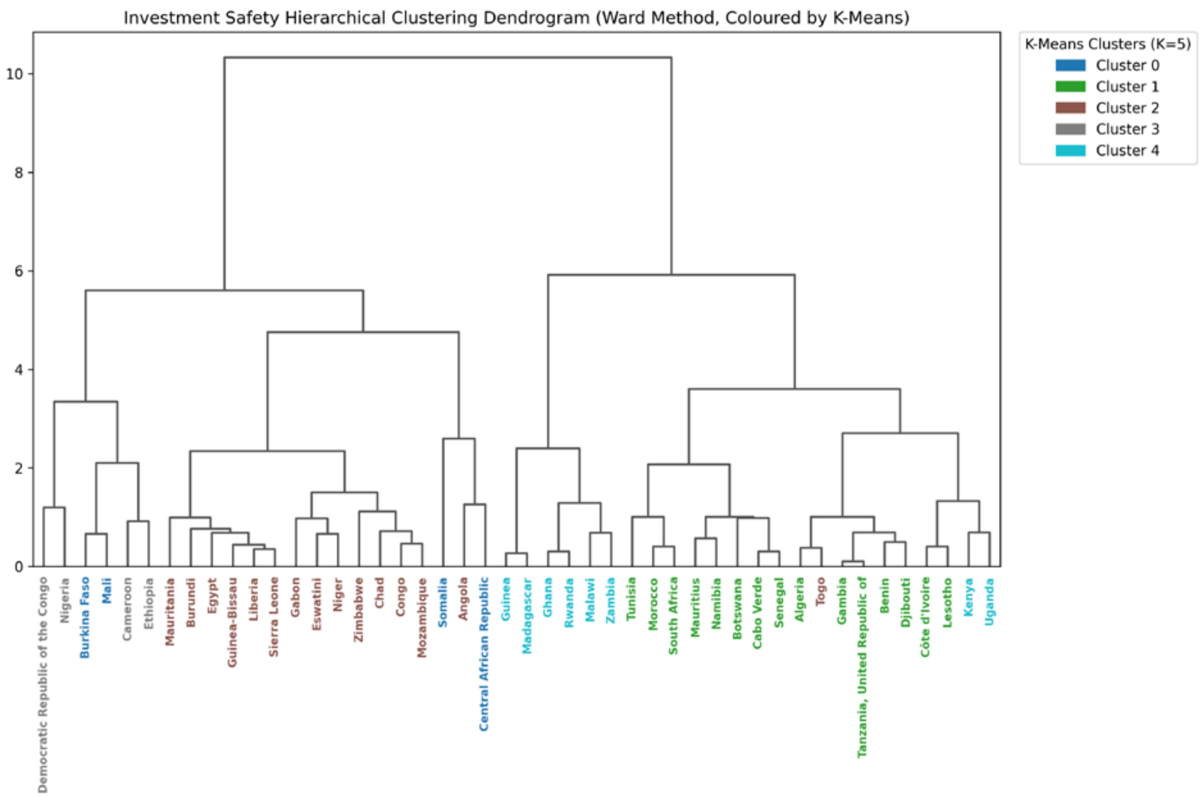
Cluster	Money growth	Property rights	Security and stability	Country count
0	22.05	30.8	34.68	4
1	32.58	68.97	77.26	15
2	29.46	40.52	65.37	15
3	42.53	32.97	35.03	4
4	49.13	59.59	70.63	8

Cluster 0: Low stability and weak institutional protection
Average money growth: 22.05
Average property rights: 30.8
Average security and stability: 34.68
Countries (4): Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia

This cluster records low scores across money growth, property rights and security and stability. **The defining feature is cumulative fragility.** Economic performance is weaker, institutional protection of property is limited, and security conditions are more volatile. In such contexts, large-scale wildlife investment may face significant structural risk. Conservation activities may depend more heavily on external support, humanitarian coordination or stabilisation initiatives.

For policymakers in this group, improving security and institutional clarity may form the foundation for broader economic and environmental development.

Figure 45: Country clustering based on the investment safety components



Cluster 1: Strong property rights and high stability
Average money growth: 32.58
Average property rights: 68.97
Average security and stability: 77.26
Countries (15): Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia

This cluster records high scores for property rights and security and stability, with moderate money growth. **The defining feature is institutional predictability.** Property rights are relatively well protected and security conditions are comparatively stable. This creates a foundation of investor confidence, even where short-term economic growth is moderate.

For wildlife economy investment, this cluster offers relatively secure conditions for land-based ventures, long-term concessions, and conservation finance mechanisms. Stable governance and predictable legal systems are particularly important for investments that require extended time horizons.

Cluster 2: Moderate stability with weaker property rights
Average money growth: 29.46
Average property rights: 40.52
Average security and stability: 65.37
Countries (15): Angola, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zimbabwe

This cluster records moderate security and stability but

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lower property rights scores and moderate money growth. The pattern suggests that while general security conditions may be acceptable, formal protection of property rights and asset security may be weaker. This can introduce uncertainty around land tenure, contract enforcement or long-term capital deployment.

For wildlife economy investment, which often depend on secure land access and predictable regulatory environments, bolstering property rights frameworks may be a priority. Improving clarity around ownership, concessions and dispute resolution could reduce perceived risk.

Cluster 3: Growth without institutional depth
Average money growth: 42.53
Average property rights: 32.97
Average security and stability: 35.03
Countries (4): Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Nigeria

This cluster records relatively higher money growth scores but lower property rights and stability scores. The pattern indicates economic expansion occurring alongside institutional fragility. While growth indicators may appear encouraging, weaker property rights and security conditions can limit long-term investor confidence.

For wildlife economy development, this combination presents both opportunity and risk. Expanding markets may increase demand for tourism or natural resource use, but unclear asset protection and instability may constrain sustainable investment. Strengthening institutional safeguards could help translate economic growth into more durable investment confidence.

Cluster 4: Strong growth with improving institutional protection
Average money growth: 49.13
Average property rights: 59.59
Average security and stability: 70.63
Countries (8): Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia
This cluster combines comparatively high money growth with moderate to strong property rights and solid security conditions. **The distinguishing characteristic is economic dynamism.** Higher money growth scores suggest expanding economic output and financial performance. Property rights and stability are not at the very highest levels, but they remain relatively supportive.

This profile may appeal to investors seeking both growth potential and reasonable institutional safeguards. However, maintaining macroeconomic stability and enhancing asset protection systems will remain important to sustain confidence over time.

Static indicator exposure analysis

The WEII v2 preserves the full structure and weighting system of Version 1 in order to ensure comparability between the two versions. While this continuity strengthens longitudinal analysis, it also means that some indicators did not change between editions due to data update cycles or limited availability of new data. A static indicator exposure analysis was therefore undertaken to provide context for interpreting performance shifts.

Of the 280 indicators included in WEII v2, 75 did not have updated data and therefore retain their v1 values. Given that all indicators are equally weighted, this **represents 26.8% of the overall Index** (see Table 11). In practical terms, just over one quarter of the WEII score is structurally anchored to previously available data. This does not invalidate comparative analysis, but it does introduce a measurable degree of inertia into the system.

Table 11: Overall index exposure

Component	Static indicators	Total indicators	Static share (%)
Overall WEII	75	280	26.8

Sub-index level exposure

Static exposure is not evenly distributed across the two sub-indices. **Within the Wildlife Status Sub-index, 31.7% of indicators are static. In the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index, the proportion is lower at 25.5%** (see Table 12). This indicates that the wildlife resource component of the Index carries a slightly higher degree of structural stability relative to the investment-enabling environment component.

As a result, movements observed within the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index are more likely to reflect updated data inputs, whereas movements within the Wildlife Status Sub-index may be moderated by a larger share of unchanged indicators. This difference should be borne in mind when comparing sub-index trends between v1 and v2.

Table 12: Sub-index level exposure

Sub-index	Static share (%)
Wildlife Status	31.7
Investment-enabling Environment	25.5

Category level exposure

At category level, variation becomes more pronounced (see Table 13). Within the Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index, ease of doing business shows the highest static exposure at 35%. Within Wildlife Status, wildlife management has 33.3% static indicators, and wildlife assets has 27.8%. Investment safety has 22.2% static exposure, while public sector capacity has the lowest at 15.6%. These differences are analytically relevant. **Categories with higher static shares are more structurally stable between editions. Observed score changes within these categories reflect adjustments across a smaller pool of updated indicators.** By contrast, categories with lower static shares draw more heavily on refreshed data and may therefore present a more dynamic profile.

Public sector capacity stands out in this regard. With only 15.6% static exposure, most of its component indicators were updated in v2. Movements within this category can therefore be interpreted with relatively high confidence that they reflect changes in underlying data inputs rather than mechanical continuity. Ease of doing business and wildlife management, by comparison, exhibit higher structural inertia. Performance shifts within these areas should be interpreted with greater caution, especially where changes are modest.

Table 13: Category level exposure

Sub-index	Category	Static share (%)
Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	35.0
Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	33.3
Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	27.8
Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	22.2
Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	15.6

Sub-category level exposure

At sub-category level, exposure varies substantially (see Table 14). Within wildlife assets, ecological habitats has the highest static exposure at 83.3%. This indicates that the majority of its indicators remained unchanged between versions. As a result, score stability within this sub-category should not automatically be interpreted as evidence of environmental stability. Equally, shifts may reflect changes in a small number of updated indicators rather than broad-based movement. Infrastructure under public sector capacity also shows high exposure at 62.5%. Labour market registers 50% static indicators. Within ease of doing business, business operations, access to finances (and other resources), and access to markets range between 41 and 43% static exposure. These areas therefore contain a substantial share of unchanged data.

By contrast, several sub-categories are fully or almost fully updated. Money growth and social inclusion show zero static exposure. Species richness, endemic species, protected areas, and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas are also fully updated. Rule of law has very low exposure at 5.1%, and anti-corruption at 8.7%. These distinctions matter for interpretation. Sub-categories with minimal static exposure are largely driven by refreshed data inputs in v2. Movements in these areas provide clearer signals of change within the available datasets. Sub-categories with high static exposure are more constrained by the update cycle of underlying sources.

Table 14: Sub-category level exposure

Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Static share (%)
Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Ecological habitats	83.3
Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	62.5
Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	50
Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	43.1
Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	41.7
Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	41.2
Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	34.4
Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	30
Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	28.6
Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	25
Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	8.7
Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	5.1
Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Money growth	0
Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	0
Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	0
Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Endemic species	0
Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Species richness	0
Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Protected areas	0

Implications for interpretation

The presence of static indicators does not compromise the integrity of the Index. The WEII v2 retains methodological consistency and applies equal weighting across all indicators. Static exposure is a function of data availability rather than methodological revision. However, it does affect how comparative results should be read.

Observed stability between v1 and v2 does not necessarily imply absence of real-world change. In components with high static exposure, part of the score is anchored to earlier data. Stability may therefore reflect structural inertia within the dataset rather than complete policy or performance continuity. Also, observed movement within highly updated components may carry stronger informational content. Where static exposure is low, changes in score are more directly associated with updated inputs.

The distribution of static exposure across categories is uneven. Wildlife-related components show slightly higher exposure overall, while governance and institutional components, especially within public sector capacity and rule of law, are largely updated. This pattern influences the balance of dynamism across the Index. Importantly, static exposure operates at design level rather than country level. All countries are subject to the same update structure because indicators are globally defined and equally weighted. **The exposure analysis therefore provides contextual guidance for interpreting aggregate and comparative results, rather than attributing stability or change to specific countries on the basis of data recency.**

Overall assessment

At overall Index level, with 26.8% static exposure, **the WEII v2 remains predominantly driven by updated data**. More than 70% of indicators reflect refreshed information (see Table 15). This supports the validity of comparative analysis between v1 and v2. At the same time, variation across sub-indices, categories, and sub-categories highlights areas where interpretation should be more cautious. The static indicator exposure analysis strengthens transparency and ensures that performance shifts are assessed within a clear understanding of the underlying data structure. The comparative analysis that follows should therefore be read in conjunction with this exposure profile. Together, they provide a balanced and technically robust basis for assessing trends in Africa's wildlife economy investment landscape.

Table 15: Data update of WEII indicators

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
1	Number of animal species	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Species richness	TRUE
2	Number of plant species	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Species richness	TRUE
3	Number of endemic vertebrate species	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Endemic species	TRUE
4	Number of endemic plant species	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Endemic species	TRUE
5	Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%) AG_LND_FRST	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Ecological habitats	FALSE
6	Above-ground biomass stock in forest (tonnes per hectare) AG_LND_FRSTBIOPHA	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Ecological habitats	FALSE
7	Mountain Green Cover Index ER_MTN_GRNCVI	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Ecological habitats	TRUE
8	Wetlands area (% of total land area) EN_WBE_WTLP	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Ecological habitats	FALSE
9	Lakes and rivers permanent water area (% of total land area) EN_LKRV_PWAP	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Ecological habitats	FALSE
10	Mangrove area (square kilometres) EN_WBE_MANGN	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Ecological habitats	FALSE
11	Terrestrial protected areas (REP area)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Protected areas	TRUE
12	Coastal protected areas (REP area)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Protected areas	TRUE
13	Marine protected areas (REP area)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Protected areas	TRUE
14	PAs connectivity	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Protected areas	TRUE
15	Average proportion of Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) ER_PTD_FRHWTR	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	TRUE
16	Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) ER_PTD_TERR	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	TRUE
17	Average proportion of Mountain Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) ER_PTD_MTN	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	TRUE
18	Average proportion of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) ER_MRN_MPA	Wildlife Status	Wildlife assets	Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	TRUE
19	Countries that are parties to the Nagoya Protocol (1 = YES; 0 = NO) ER_CBD_NAGOYA	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	TRUE
20	Countries that have legislative, administrative and policy framework or measures reported to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (1 = YES; 0 = NO) ER_CBD_ ABSCLRHS	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	TRUE
21	Countries that are contracting Parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) (1 = YES; 0 = NO) ER_CBD_PTYPGRFA	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	TRUE
22	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets alignment to Aichi Biodiversity target 9 set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (1 = YES, 0 = NO) ER_IAS_NBSAP	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	TRUE
23	Promotion of Environmental Sustainability	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	TRUE
24	Environmental Policies & Regulations	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	TRUE
25	CPIA policy and institutions for environmental sustainability rating (1=low to 6=high)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	TRUE
26	Environment-related treaties in force	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	FALSE
27	Law recognition of private ownership of wildlife (animals)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	FALSE
28	Law recognition of customary or traditional rights to wildlife (animals)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife legal framework	FALSE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
29	Enforcement of Environmental Policies	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
30	Sustainable Use of Forests	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
31	Land & Water Biodiversity Protection	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
32	Biodiversity Offset Policies development score	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
33	Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) _land_cover	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
34	Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) _marine_cover	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
35	Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
36	Carbon credits	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
37	Official development assistance (ODA) targeting environment as the 'principal objective' in 2016-2020	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
38	Origin of wildlife seizures (live equivalent)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
39	Origin of wildlife seizures (Quantity in Kg)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
40	Destination of wildlife seizure (live equivalent)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
41	Destination of wildlife seizure (Quantity in Kg)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
42	Climate change mitigation	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
43	Waste management	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
44	Heavy metals	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
45	Agriculture	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
46	Parties meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by Stockholm Convention on hazardous waste, and other chemicals	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
47	Parties meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by Basel Convention on hazardous waste, and other chemicals	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
48	Parties meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by Minamata Convention on hazardous waste, and other chemicals (%)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
49	Coastal Protection	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
50	Seafood harvest	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
51	Tree cover loss	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
52	Grassland loss	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
53	Wetland loss	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
54	Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (%) AG_LND_DGRD	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
55	EN_WBE_MANGC_Mangrove total area change (%)	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
56	Forest area annual net change rate (%) AG_LND_FRSTCHG	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	FALSE
57	Number of Extinct Animal species	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
58	Number of Extinct Plant species	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
59	Number of imported species for reintroduction or reintroduction into the wild	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
60	Number of imported species for zoo and botanical garden	Wildlife Status	Wildlife management	Wildlife management effectiveness	TRUE
61	Days to obtain operating license	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
62	Time to start a business	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
63	Cost of starting a business	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
64	Percent of firms identifying business licensing and permits as major constraint	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
65	Percent of firms identifying tax rates as major constraint	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
66	Burden of government regulation	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
67	Tax Burden	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
68	Business Freedom	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
69	Monetary Freedom	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
70	Trade Freedom	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
71	Investment Freedom	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
72	Business Regulatory Environment	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
73	Customs	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
74	International shipments	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
75	Logistics competence and quality	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
76	CPIA business regulatory environment rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
77	CPIA structural policies cluster average (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
78	CPIA financial sector rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
79	CPIA fiscal policy rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
80	CPIA trade rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
81	Number of countries that require a visa	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
82	Regional inflation differential	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
83	Legal enforcement of contracts	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
84	Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
85	Interest rate controls /negative real interest rates	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
86	Tax compliance	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
87	Mean tariff rate	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
88	Standard deviation of tariff rates	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
89	Insolvency regulatory framework	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
90	Government ensuring policy stability	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
91	Competition in services	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
92	Competition in professional services	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
93	Competition in retail services	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
94	Competition in network services	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
95	Trade tariffs	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
96	Complexity of tariffs	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
97	Border clearance efficiency	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
98	Cooperation in labour-employer relations	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
99	Flexibility of wage determination	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
100	Efficiency of legal framework in challenging regulations	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
101	Market capitalization	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
102	Growth of innovative companies	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	FALSE
103	Consumer Price Index, All items	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
104	Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
105	Due process is respected in administrative proceedings	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
106	Basic administration	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
107	Social capital	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
108	Monetary stability	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
109	Fiscal stability	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
110	Output strength	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
111	Exchange rate stability	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Business operations	TRUE
112	Percent of firms identifying access to finance as a major constraint	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	TRUE
113	Banking system	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	TRUE
114	Financial Freedom	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	TRUE
115	Access to Banking Services	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	TRUE
116	Key Indicators, Geographical Outreach, Number of all microfinance institution branches per 100,000 adults	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
117	Financial Institutions Efficiency Index	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	FALSE
118	Domestic credit to private sector	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	FALSE
119	Financing of SMEs	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	FALSE
120	Venture capital availability	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	FALSE
121	Capital controls	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	TRUE
122	Lending interest rate (%)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	FALSE
123	Percent of firms choosing access to land as their biggest obstacle	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to finances (and other resources)	TRUE
124	Market organization	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
125	Competition policy	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
126	Liberalization of foreign trade	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
127	Percent of firms competing against unregistered or informal firms	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
128	% of firms identifying practices of competitors in the informal sector as a major constraint	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
129	Financial Markets Access Index	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	FALSE
130	Public Procurement Procedures	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
131	Share of intraregional trade	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	FALSE
132	AfCFTA	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	FALSE
133	Number of bilateral investment treaties	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	FALSE
134	Free Movement of Persons Protocol	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	FALSE
135	Distortive effect of taxes and subsidies on competition	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	FALSE
136	Credibility	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
137	Regional cooperation	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
138	Accessibility of Public Records	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
139	Equal Socioeconomic Opportunity	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	TRUE
140	Extent of market dominance	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Access to markets	FALSE
141	Percent of firms expected to give gifts to get an operating license	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
142	Percent of firms expected to give gifts to secure a government contract	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	FALSE
143	Value of gift expected to secure a government contract (% of contract value)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	FALSE
144	Percent of firms expected to give gifts in meetings with tax officials	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
145	Percent of firms identifying corruption as a major constraint	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
146	Government Integrity	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
147	Anti-Corruption Mechanisms	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
148	Absence of Corruption in State Institutions	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
149	Absence of Corruption in the Public Sector	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
150	CPIA transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
151	Executive bribery and corrupt exchanges (C) (v2exbribe)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
152	Executive embezzlement and theft (C) (v2exembez)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
153	Public sector corrupt exchanges (C) (v2excrptps)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
154	Legislature corrupt activities (C) (v2lgcrrpt)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
155	Political corruption index (D) (v2x_corr)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
156	Executive corruption index (D) (v2x_execorr)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
157	Public sector corruption index (D) (v2x_pubcorr)	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
158	Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
159	Corruption Perceptions Index	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
160	Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
161	Civil justice is free of corruption	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
162	Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
163	Government regulations are applied and enforced without improper influence	Investment-enabling Environment	Ease of doing business	Anti-corruption	TRUE
164	Government regulations are effectively enforced	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
165	Publicized laws and government data	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
166	Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
167	Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
168	Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
169	Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
170	Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
171	Transition of power is subject to the law	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
172	Civic participation	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
173	Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
174	Criminal system is free of improper government influence	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
175	Effective Administration	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
176	Quality of Public Administration	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
177	Executive Compliance with the Rule of Law	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
178	Impartiality of the Judicial System	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
179	Judicial Independence	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
180	Enforcement of Justice	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
181	Equality before the Law	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
182	Institutional Checks & Balances	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
183	Civic Checks & Balances	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
184	Complaint Mechanisms & Petitions	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
185	Absence of Undue Influence on Government	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
186	Disclosure of Public Records	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
187	Executive respects constitution	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
188	Rigorous and impartial public administration (C) (v2clrspct)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
189	Transparent laws with predictable enforcement (C) (v2cltrnslw)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
190	Compliance with high court (C) (v2juhccomp)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
191	Compliance with judiciary (C) (v2jucomp)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
192	Judicial accountability (v2juaccnt)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
193	Executive oversight (C) (v2lgotovst)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
194	Public sector theft (C) (v2exthftps)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
195	Legislature questions officials in practice (C)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
196	Legislature investigates in practice (C)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
197	Clean elections index (D) (v2xel_frefair)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
198	Range of consultation (C) (v2dlconslt)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
199	Engaged society (C) (v2dlengage)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
200	Freedom of academic and cultural expression	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
201	Effective power to govern	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
202	Monopoly on the use of force	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
203	Association / assembly rights	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
204	Freedom of expression	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
205	Separation of powers	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
206	Prosecution of office abuse	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
207	Performance of democratic institutions	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
208	Commitment to democratic institutions	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
209	Party system	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
210	Interest groups	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
211	Approval of democracy	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
212	Implementation	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
213	Policy learning	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
214	Policy coordination	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
215	Anti-democratic actors	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
216	Civil society participation	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
217	Judicial independence	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	FALSE
218	Efficiency of legal framework in settling disputes	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	FALSE
219	Strength of auditing and accounting standards	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	FALSE
220	Military interference in rule of law and politics	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
221	Integrity of the legal system	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
222	Digital Rights	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Rule of law	TRUE
223	Road connectivity	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	FALSE
224	Quality of road infrastructure	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	FALSE
225	Efficiency of air transport services	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	FALSE
226	AfDB Composite Infrastructure	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	FALSE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
227	Transport Network	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	TRUE
228	Mobile Communications	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	TRUE
229	Proportion of individuals using the Internet (%) IT_USE_ii99	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	TRUE
230	Logistics infrastructure	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Infrastructure	FALSE
231	Labor Freedom	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	TRUE
232	Hiring and firing practices	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	FALSE
233	Active labour market policies	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	FALSE
234	Internal labour mobility	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	FALSE
235	Ease of hiring foreign labour	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	FALSE
236	Pay and productivity	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	FALSE
237	Labour tax rate	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	FALSE
238	Labour Relations	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	TRUE
239	Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	TRUE
240	Hiring regulations and minimum wage	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	TRUE
241	Hours regulations	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	TRUE
242	Mandated cost of worker dismissal	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Labour market	TRUE
243	Social group equality in respect for civil liberties (C) (v2clsocgrp)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
244	Political group equality in respect for civil liberties (C) (v2clpolcl)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
245	Gender equality in respect for civil liberties (C) (v2clgencl)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
246	Freedom of religion (C) (v2clrelig)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
247	Equal opportunity	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
248	Equal treatment and absence of discrimination	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
249	Socioeconomic Opportunity for Women	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
250	CPIA social protection rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
251	CPIA policies for social inclusion/equity cluster average (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
252	CPIA gender equality rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
253	CPIA equity of public resource use rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Public sector capacity	Social inclusion	TRUE
254	Real GDP annual growth (%)	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Money growth	TRUE
255	Return on Equity	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Money growth	TRUE
256	Return on Assets	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Money growth	TRUE
257	Annual growth rate of output per worker (GDP constant 2017 international $ at PPP) (%)	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Money growth	TRUE
258	Property rights - Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	TRUE
259	Property rights - WEF Global Competitiveness Index 2019	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	FALSE
260	Intellectual property protection	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	FALSE
261	The government does not expropriate without lawful process and adequate compensation	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	TRUE
262	Property Rights - Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	TRUE
263	CPIA property rights and rule-based governance rating (1=low to 6=high)	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	TRUE
264	Property Rights - Economic Freedom Index	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Property rights	TRUE
265	Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
266	Percent of firms choosing political instability as their biggest obstacle	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
267	If the establishment pays for security, average security costs (% of annual sales)	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	FALSE
268	Percent of firms identifying crime, theft and disorder as a major constraint	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	FALSE
269	Organized crime	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	FALSE
270	Terrorism incidence	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	FALSE

No.	Indicator name	Sub-index	Category	Sub-category	Updated in v2
271	Absence of Armed Conflict	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
272	Absence of Non-State Conflict	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
273	Absence of Violence against Civilians	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
274	Absence of Government Violence against Civilians	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
275	Crime is effectively controlled	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
276	Civil conflict is effectively limited	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
277	Conflict intensity	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
278	Cleavage / conflict management	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
279	Reconciliation	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE
280	Fragile States Index	Investment-enabling Environment	Investment safety	Security and stability	TRUE

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF V1 AND V2

Comparative analysis of v1 and v2

Overall Index score comparison

Figure 46: Top improvers (Overall WEII)

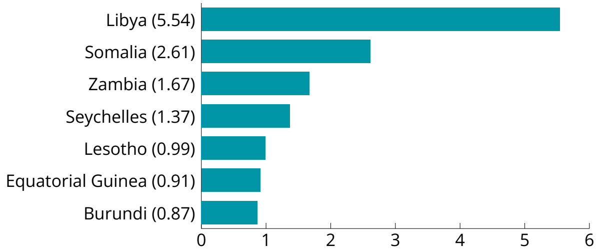
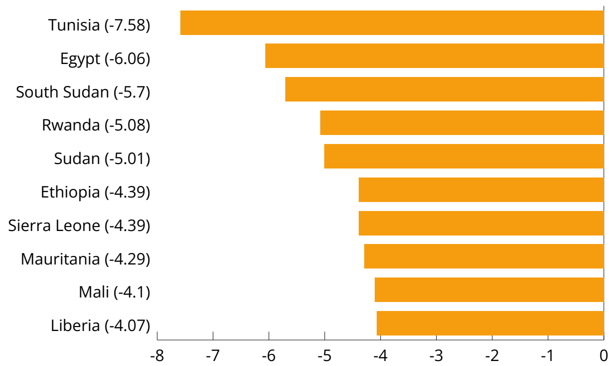


Figure 47: Top decliners (Overall WEII)



The comparison between v1 and v2 indicates a clear downward shift in overall WEII scores across most countries. The average score declined from 47.14 in v1 to 44.92 in v2, a decrease of 2.22 points. The median fell from 48.48 to 44.72, a decline of 3.76 points. The larger fall in the median suggests that the central mass of countries experienced reductions of moderate scale, rather than the average being pulled down by a small number of extreme cases. Of the 53 countries assessed in both editions, 46 recorded lower scores in v2, while seven recorded higher scores. Score changes ranged from a decline of 7.58 points in Tunisia to an increase of 5.54 points in Libya. Three quarters of countries experienced declines of at least 1.26 points, and half declined by at least 2.66 points. The distribution of change is therefore strongly concentrated on the negative side.

Using the defined change typology thresholds (see Table 16), 40 countries are classified as strong decliners, meaning their scores fell by more than one point. Four are moderate decliners, two are stagnant, three are moderate improvers, and four are strong improvers. The pattern is unambiguous; score reductions dominate the edition. The countries recording improvements are Libya (5.54), Somalia (2.61), Zambia (1.67), Seychelles (1.37), Lesotho (0.99), Equatorial Guinea (0.91), and Burundi (0.87). Among these, only four meet the strong improver threshold. The remaining three show moderate gains. By contrast, several countries experienced substantial contractions, including Tunisia (-7.58), Egypt (-6.06), South Sudan (-5.70), Rwanda (-5.08), and Sudan (-5.01) (see Figures 46 and 47).

Table 16: Change typology classification thresholds

Category	Threshold Definition
Strong improver	x ≥ 1.0
Moderate improver	0.3 ≤ x < 1.0
Stagnant	-0.3 < x < 0.3
Moderate decliner	-1.0 < x ≤ -0.3
Strong decliner	x ≤ -1.0

Despite the broad-based decline, relative ranking positions remain comparatively stable. The four highest-ranked countries in v1, South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius and Namibia, remain the top four in v2, although their internal order shifts. Seychelles moves from second to first, while South Africa falls from first to second. Namibia and Mauritius exchange positions. At the lower end, Libya, South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia remain among the lowest-ranked countries in both editions. The largest upward rank movements are observed in Zambia and Lesotho, each rising eight places, followed by Cabo Verde and Burundi, each rising six. Tunisia records the largest downward movement, falling eleven places, followed by Egypt, which falls eight.

Tier movements are limited. Most countries remain within the same tercile between editions. Three countries move up one tier, Cabo Verde from middle to upper, and Lesotho and Burundi from lower to middle. Three move down one tier, Tunisia from upper to middle, and Mali and Liberia from middle to lower. Cabo Verde's upward movement occurs despite a score decline, highlighting that tier classification is relative and depends on movements elsewhere in the distribution.

The pattern of improvements also warrants careful interpretation. Several of the largest gains occur among countries in the lower third of the distribution. Libya and Somalia record strong improvements but remain near the bottom of the ranking. Improvements therefore indicate positive movement relative to v1, not a transition into high-performing status. Finally, it is important to situate these findings within the data structure of the Index. Approximately 27% of indicators did not update between editions. Score changes are therefore driven by the 73% that did update. Static indicators introduce some dampening effect, meaning that measured movements may understate the scale of change in the updated components. At the same time, the widespread nature of the decline suggests that the shift is not isolated to a small subset of countries. The overall picture is one of general contraction in scores combined with relative stability in ranking positions. The underlying drivers of this pattern are examined at sub-index and category level in the sections that follow.

Sub-index scores comparison

Wildlife Status Sub-index

Figure 48: Top improvers (Wildlife Status Sub-index)

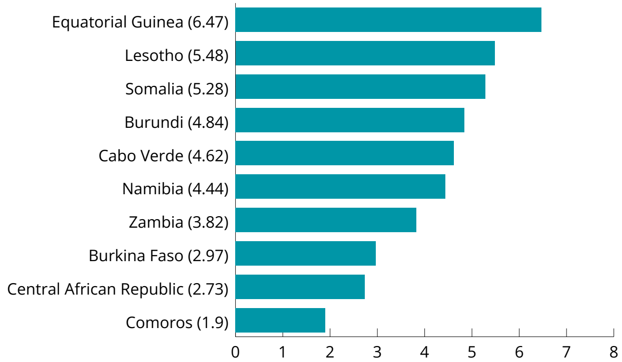
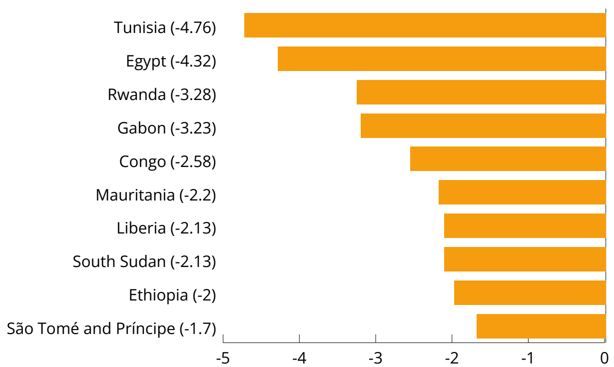


Figure 49: Top decliners (Wildlife Status Sub-index)



Unlike the overall Index, the Wildlife Status Sub-index does not show a clear downward shift. The average score rises slightly from 40.82 in v1 to 40.98 in v2, an increase of 0.16 points. The median falls slightly from 41.37 to 40.98. Together, these figures point to overall stability, with gains in some countries offset by declines in others rather than a clear trend in one direction.

Score changes vary widely (see Figures 48 and 49). The largest decline is recorded in Tunisia at -4.76 points, while the largest increase is in Equatorial Guinea at 6.47 points. Half of countries record changes between -1.28 and 0.97 points. This suggests that for many countries, movement is limited, while a smaller group records more pronounced shifts. Based on the change typology, 18 countries are strong decliners and nine are moderate decliners. Six are stagnant. On the positive side, 13 are strong improvers and eight are moderate improvers. The pattern is therefore more balanced than at overall Index level. A notable group of countries records clear gains.

The strongest improvements are seen in Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Somalia, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Namibia and Zambia. These gains occur across both lower and higher scoring countries. **For lower scoring countries, larger increases partly reflect movement from a lower base. For higher scoring countries such as Namibia and Zambia, gains suggest measurable strengthening compared to v1.** On the declining side, Tunisia, Egypt, Rwanda, Gabon and Congo record the largest reductions. Several of these countries previously had relatively high Wildlife Status scores. This shows that declines are not limited to lower scoring contexts.

Interpretation should consider the data structure. The Wildlife Status Sub-index has 31.7% static exposure. Nearly one third of its indicators were not updated in v2. This creates structural inertia in the scores. **Stability does not mean that no real change occurred. Part of each score remains linked to earlier data. Changes reflect the indicators that were updated.** In sub-categories such as ecological habitats, static exposure is especially high. In these cases, score changes may be driven by a smaller set of updated measures rather than broad change across all dimensions.

Overall, the Wildlife Status Sub-index shows a mixed picture. Aggregate stability hides meaningful variation across countries. Both improvements and declines are evident, indicating uneven developments in wildlife resource conditions between editions.

Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index

Figure 50: Top improvers (Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index)

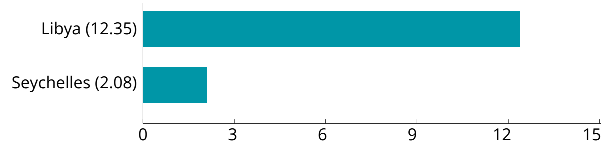
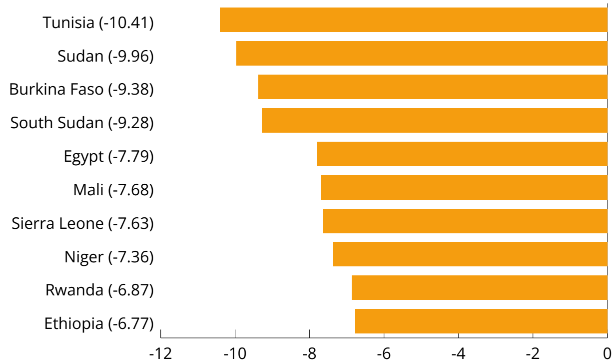


Figure 51: Top decliners (Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index)



The Investment-enabling Environment Sub-index shows a clear downward shift between v1 and v2. The average score falls from 53.49 to 48.87, a decline of 4.62 points. The median drops from 53.95 to 47.46. Unlike the Wildlife Status Sub-index, the movement here is largely negative.

The direction of change is consistent across most countries, though the size of change varies. Three quarters of countries record declines of at least 3.51 points, and half decline by 4.8 points or more. The largest reductions are seen in Tunisia, Sudan, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Egypt and Mali (see Figure 50). These declines occur across higher, middle and lower scoring countries. The downward movement is therefore not limited to one performance group.

Under the change typology, 49 of 53 countries are classified as strong decliners. One country records a moderate decline and one is stagnant. Only two countries record improvements of one point or more (see Figure 51). Libya shows a large increase of 12.35 points, and Seychelles improves by 2.08 points. Somalia remains broadly unchanged, with a small decline of 0.06 points.

This pattern points to a broad contraction in measured investment-enabling conditions compared to v1. However, interpretation should consider the data structure. Static exposure in this sub-index is 25.5%. About three quarters of indicators were updated in v2. Changes therefore reflect movements across a wide set of refreshed data.

Static exposure also varies by category. Public sector capacity has low static exposure at 15.6%, and rule of law and anti-corruption are almost fully updated. Movements in these areas are more directly linked to new data. Ease of doing business has higher static exposure at 35%, and infrastructure is more constrained at sub-category level. In these areas, part of the score remains anchored to earlier data.

Overall, the Sub-index shows widespread score declines. While the Index does not assign causes, the scale and consistency of reductions suggest that measured institutional, regulatory and macroeconomic conditions were generally weaker in v2 within the available datasets.

Category scores comparison

Wildlife assets

Figure 52: Top improvers (Wildlife assets category)

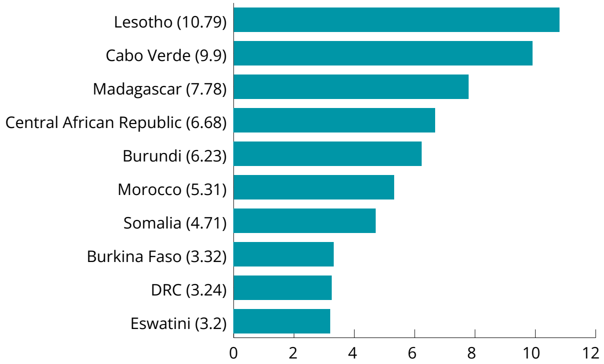
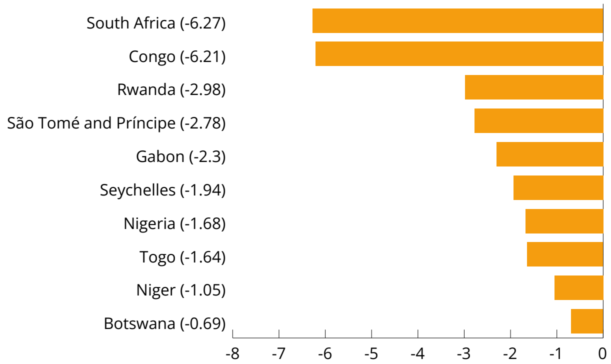


Figure 53: Top decliners (Wildlife assets category)



The wildlife assets category shows modest improvement at aggregate level between v1 and v2, with clear variation across countries. The average score rises from 23.99 to 24.77, an increase of 0.78 points. The median remains almost unchanged, moving from 24.54 to 24.76. This suggests general stability, with slight overall improvement rather than a broad shift in either direction.

The distribution of change is mixed. Seventeen countries are classified as strong improvers and four as moderate improvers. Nine are strong decliners and thirteen moderate decliners, while eleven are stagnant. No single direction dominates. Upward and downward movements occur across the full performance range.

Some countries record large gains (see Figure 52). Lesotho increases by 10.79 points and Cabo Verde by 9.9 points, both from relatively low starting scores. Madagascar rises by 7.78 points and the Central African Republic by 6.68 points. Burundi increases by 6.23 points. These improvements are not limited to one part of the distribution.

Declines are generally smaller in scale (see Figure 53). South Africa records the largest reduction at -6.27 points, followed closely by Congo at -6.21 points. Rwanda declines by -2.98 points and São Tomé and Príncipe by -2.78 points. Most other decreases fall within a narrower range between -1 and -2 points.

Interpretation should consider the data structure. The wildlife assets category has a static exposure of 27.8%. Just over one quarter of the category score is anchored to indicators that did not update in v2. Exposure also varies across sub-categories. The ecological habitats sub-category has very high static exposure, while species richness, endemic species, protected areas and key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas are fully updated.

This means that stability in some countries may reflect structural data continuity rather than unchanged ecological conditions. By contrast, movements in fully updated components are more directly linked to refreshed data. Overall, the category shows differentiated country trajectories within a structure that combines updated ecological measures with partially fixed elements.

Wildlife management

Figure 54: Top improvers (Wildlife management category)

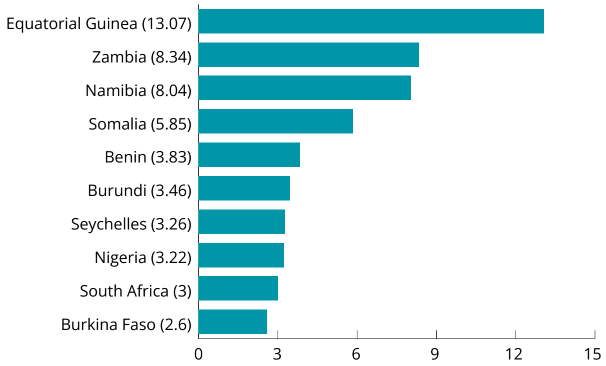
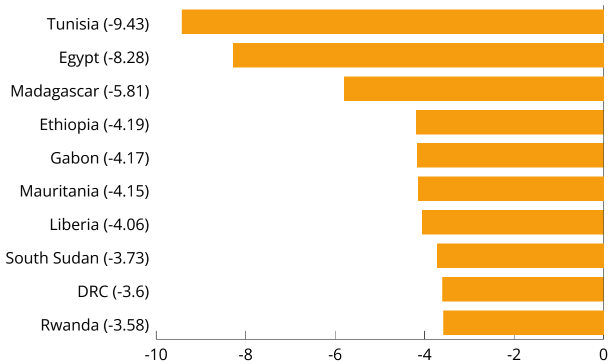


Figure 55: Top decliners (Wildlife management category)



The wildlife management category shows a small overall decline between v1 and v2. The average score falls from 57.65 to 57.18, a decrease of 0.47 points. The median declines from 58.53 to 57.10. At aggregate level, the shift is modest. At the country level, movements are more varied.

Twenty five countries are classified as strong decliners and seven as moderate decliners. Fourteen are strong improvers and four are moderate improvers, while four are stagnant. The pattern therefore reflects wide dispersion, with both notable gains and sizeable declines.

Some countries record large improvements (see Figure 54). Equatorial Guinea increases by 13.07 points, Zambia by 8.34 points and Namibia by 8.04 points. Somalia rises by 5.85 points and Benin by 3.83 points. These increases occur across different starting levels, including lower scoring countries.

At the same time, several countries experience marked declines (see Figure 55). Tunisia decreases by 9.43 points and Egypt by 8.28 points. Madagascar declines by 5.81 points. Ethiopia, Gabon and Mauritania each fall by more than four points. Many other countries record reductions between one and three points.

Interpretation should consider the data structure. Wildlife management has a static exposure of 33.3%, higher than the Index average. Approximately one third of the category score is based on indicators that did not update in v2. Both wildlife management effectiveness and wildlife legal framework contain a material share of static indicators.

This means that some stability may reflect data continuity rather than unchanged conditions. Large movements are driven by the two thirds of indicators that did update. Overall, the category shows greater variation than wildlife assets, with clear differences in country trajectories within a partially constrained data structure.

Ease of doing business

Figure 56: Top improvers (Ease of doing business category)

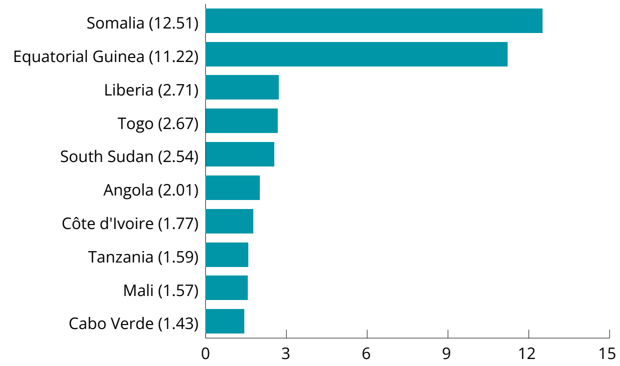
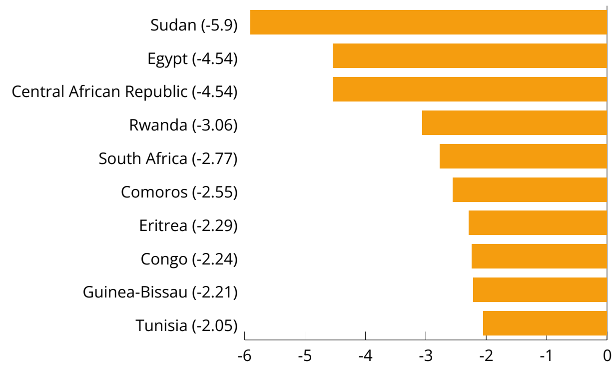


Figure 57: Top decliners (Ease of doing business category)



The ease of doing business category is broadly stable between v1 and v2. The mean score shifts slightly from 48.07 to 48.00, a change of minus 0.07 points. The median declines from 48.56 to 47.80. At aggregate level, this suggests continuity. At the country level, movements are more varied.

Nineteen countries are classified as strong decliners and five as moderate decliners. Twelve are strong improvers and six are moderate improvers. Eleven are stagnant. The distribution shows a mild negative tilt, but also a sizeable group of countries with meaningful gains.

Large increases are recorded in Somalia at 12.51 points and Equatorial Guinea at 11.22 points. Liberia rises by 2.71 points, Togo by 2.67 points and South Sudan by 2.54 points. Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Mali and Cabo Verde also record gains of between one and two points (see Figure 56).

On the declining side, Sudan falls by 5.90 points, Egypt by 4.54 points and the Central African Republic by 4.54 points. Rwanda declines by 3.06 points and South Africa by 2.77 points. Several other countries record reductions of between one and two points (see Figure 57).

Interpretation should consider the data structure. Ease of doing business has a static exposure of 35%, the highest among categories. Business operations, access to finance and access to markets each contain more than 40% static indicators. Around one third of the score is therefore anchored to unchanged data. Small movements may partly reflect this anchoring effect. Larger changes are more likely linked to updated components.

Public sector capacity

Figure 58: Top improvers (Public sector capacity category)

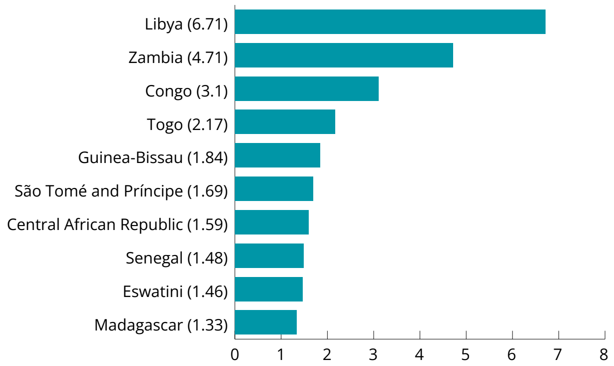
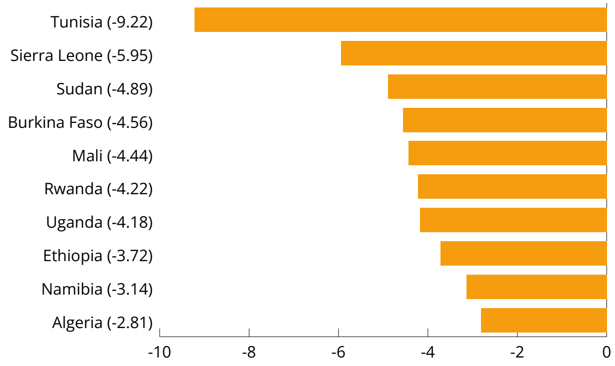


Figure 59: Top decliners (Public sector capacity category)



The public sector capacity category shows a modest overall decline between v1 and v2. The mean score falls from 50.06 to 49.30, a decrease of 0.76 points. The median declines from 50.12 to 48.40. At aggregate level, this indicates a general downward shift. Country level patterns are more varied.

Twenty four countries are classified as strong decliners and two as moderate decliners. Eleven are strong improvers and nine are moderate improvers. Eight are stagnant. The balance therefore leans towards contraction, although a sizeable group records gains.

Large improvements are seen in Libya, which rises by 6.71 points, and Zambia, which increases by 4.71 points. Congo gains 3.10 points and Togo 2.17 points. Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, the Central African Republic, Senegal, Eswatini and Madagascar record gains of between one and two points (see Figure 58).

On the declining side, Tunisia falls by 9.22 points. Sierra Leone declines by 5.95 points and Sudan by 4.89 points. Burkina Faso, Mali, Rwanda and Uganda each record reductions above four points. Namibia, Algeria and Ethiopia also post notable declines (see Figure 59).

Static exposure in this category is low at 15.6%. Rule of law has very low static exposure and social inclusion has none. This means most indicators were updated in v2. Observed movements are therefore largely driven by refreshed data. Infrastructure and labour market contain higher static shares, so smaller changes in these areas may partly reflect update cycles.

Overall, **the category shows meaningful variation across countries, with a clear but moderate downward tilt in aggregate results.**

Investment safety

Figure 60: Top improvers (Investment safety category)

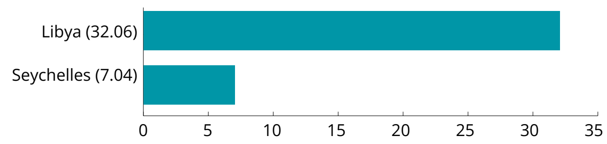
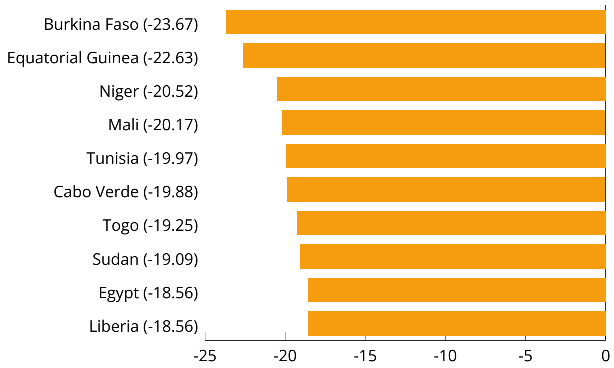


Figure 61: Top decliners (Investment safety category)



The investment safety category records a strong overall decline between v1 and v2. The mean score falls from 62.99 to 50.13, a decrease of 12.86 points. The median drops from 65.80 to 52.23. This is the largest average decline among the investment-enabling environment categories.

The distribution of change is heavily weighted towards decline. Forty nine of the 51 countries assessed are classified as strong decliners under the defined thresholds. Only two countries are strong improvers. There are no moderate improvers, moderate decliners or stagnant cases.

Libya and Seychelles are the only countries with strong improvements (see Figure 60). Libya increases by 32.06 points and Seychelles by 7.04 points. These gains are substantial when compared with the overall pattern. In contrast, many countries record very large reductions (see Figure 61). Burkina Faso declines by 23.67 points, Equatorial Guinea by 22.63 points, Niger by 20.52 points and Mali by 20.17 points. Tunisia and Cabo Verde also record declines close to 20 points. A further group, including Egypt, Liberia, Senegal, Morocco, Kenya and Uganda, posts reductions between 12 and 19 points. The scale and spread of these declines indicate a broad downward adjustment across the category.

Static exposure helps to frame interpretation. Investment safety has a static share of 22.2%. Money growth is fully updated, while security and stability has 25% static indicators and property rights 28.6%. Most of the category is therefore based on updated data in v2. The large observed movements are not driven mainly by unchanged indicators.

At the same time, score reductions do not imply uniform weakening across all elements. They indicate that, relative to v1, updated macroeconomic, property rights and security measures shifted downward within the available data. **Overall, Investment safety shows the clearest and most widespread contraction among the investment-enabling components.**

Sub-category scores comparison

Species richness

Figure 62: Top improvers (Species richness sub-category)

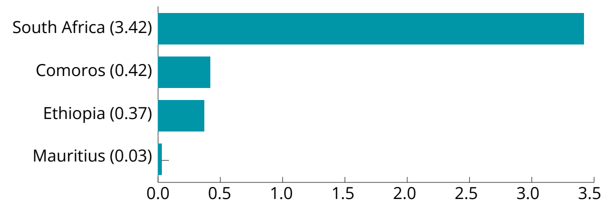
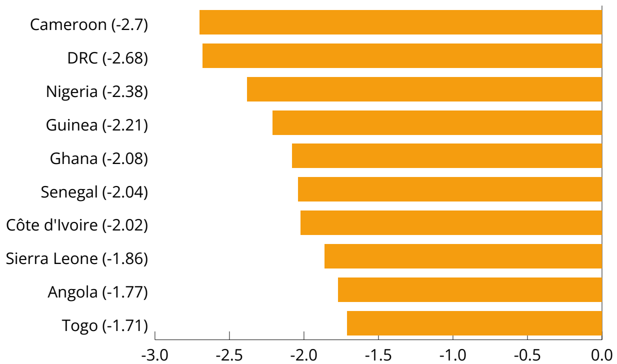


Figure 63: Top decliners (Species richness sub-category)



The species richness sub-category shows a small overall decline between v1 and v2. The average score falls from 27.15 to 26.13, a decrease of 1.02 points. The median decline is similar. Compared with other parts of the Index, movements are generally limited in size. Thirty one countries are classified as strong decliners, with score reductions of more than one point. Twelve are moderate decliners. Eight countries are classified as stagnant. Two countries are moderate improvers and one is a strong improver.

South Africa records the largest increase, with a gain of 3.42 points. Ethiopia and Comoros show moderate improvements. Most other countries record declines of between one and two points. The largest reductions are just under three points. This indicates that changes are gradual rather than extreme (see Figures 62 and 63).

Interpretation should consider the data structure. Species richness has zero static exposure. All indicators in this sub-category were updated in v2. This means the results are not influenced by unchanged data carried over from v1. Observed movements reflect differences in the updated biodiversity datasets used in the current edition. However, changes in species richness scores should not be interpreted as rapid shifts in ecological conditions. The scores reflect changes in reported and compiled species data within global sources. They indicate differences in measured biodiversity information between editions, rather than immediate ecological change on the ground.

Endemic species

Figure 64: Top improvers (Endemic species sub-category)

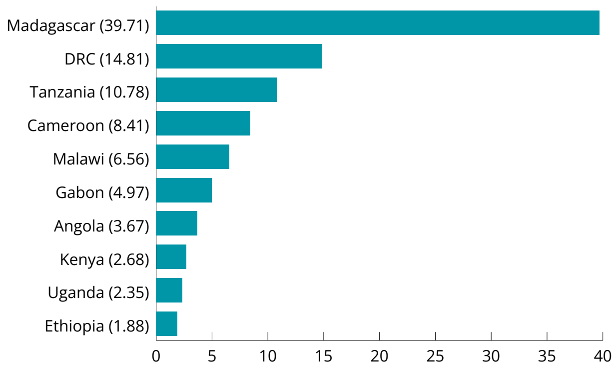
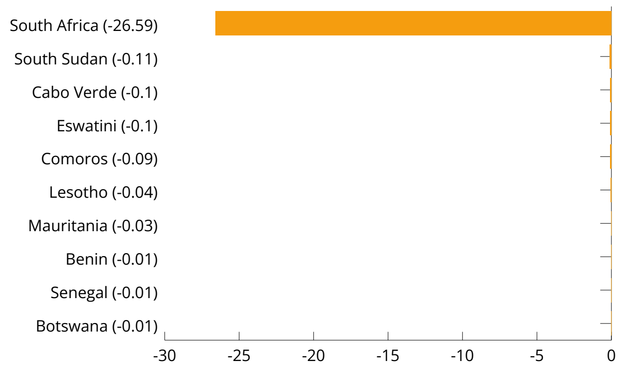


Figure 65: Top decliners (Endemic species sub-category)



The endemic species sub-category shows a clear overall increase between v1 and v2. The average score rises from 3.03 to 4.58, an increase of 1.55 points. The change between medians is modest at 0.43 points, indicating that gains are unevenly distributed across countries.

Sixteen countries are classified as strong improvers, with score increases of one point or more. A further ten are moderate improvers. Twenty seven countries are classified as stagnant, with changes within plus or minus 0.3 points. Only one country is classified as a strong decliner. The largest increases are recorded in Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Tanzania. Several other countries also record substantial gains from relatively low starting values. In contrast, South Africa shows a large negative movement and is the only strong decliner in this sub-category (see Figures 64 and 65).

Interpretation should take account of the data structure. Endemic species has zero static exposure. All underlying indicators were updated in v2. This means movements are not constrained by carry over values from v1. Observed changes reflect differences in updated endemic species datasets. However, large shifts should be interpreted carefully. **Endemic species counts can be sensitive to revisions in classification, reporting, and database coverage.** Score increases therefore indicate changes in measured endemic species information rather than direct evidence of rapid biological change on the ground.

Ecological habitats

Figure 66: Top improvers (Ecological habitats sub-category)

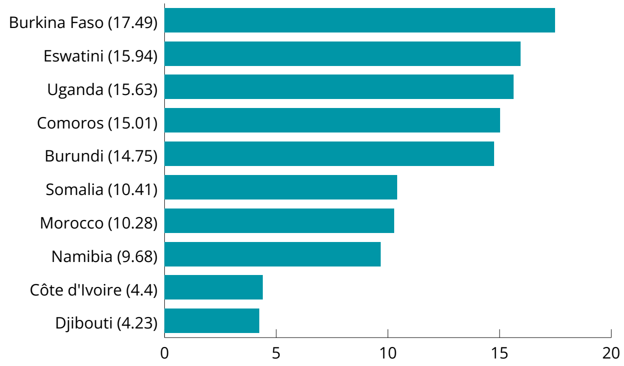
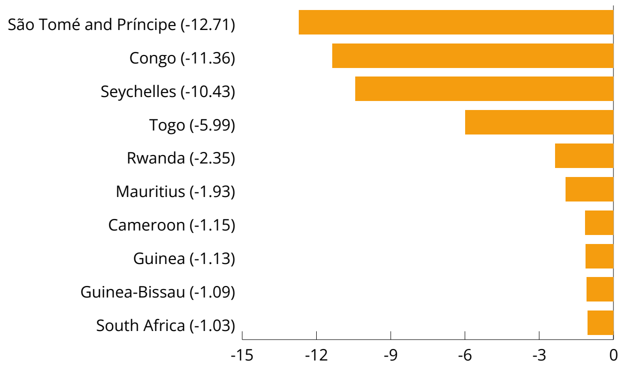


Figure 67: Top decliners (Ecological habitats sub-category)



The ecological habitats sub-category presents a mixed pattern of change between v1 and v2. The average score increases from 27.7 to 28.92, suggesting a modest upward shift overall. However, movements vary widely across countries.

Twelve countries are classified as strong improvers, with gains of one point or more. Notable increases are recorded in Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Uganda, Comoros and Burundi. **Several of these countries start from relatively low v1 values and show large positive adjustments in v2.** At the same time, ten countries are classified as strong decliners. Large negative movements are observed in São Tomé and Príncipe, Congo, and Seychelles (see Figures 66 and 67). A further twelve countries are moderate decliners. Sixteen countries are classified as stagnant, with changes within plus or minus 0.3 points.

Interpretation must take account of the data structure. Ecological habitats has very high static exposure at 83.3%. Most underlying indicators did not update between editions. **Score changes therefore reflect movements in a small subset of updated variables rather than broad shifts across all habitat measures.** Stability in this sub-category should not be read as confirmation of unchanged habitat conditions. Likewise, **large movements may reflect revisions in specific datasets rather than comprehensive environmental change.**

Protected areas

Figure 68: Top improvers (Protected areas sub-category)

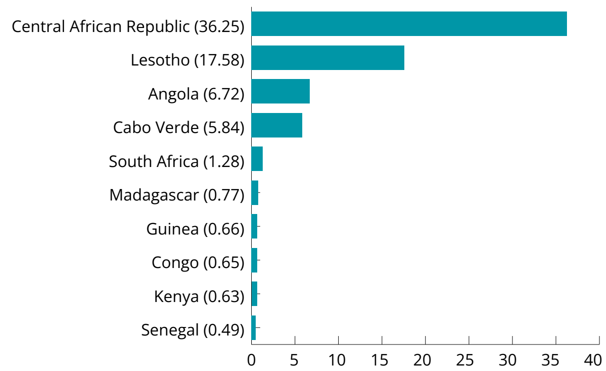
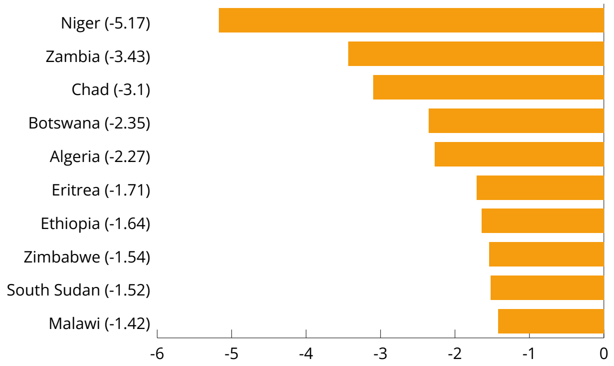


Figure 69: Top decliners (Protected areas sub-category)



The protected areas sub-category shows moderate overall change between v1 and v2. The average score increases slightly from 14.85 to 15.56. The median score remains broadly stable. This indicates limited movement for many countries, alongside a small number of larger shifts.

Five countries are classified as strong improvers. The most pronounced increase is recorded in the Central African Republic, followed by Lesotho, Angola and Cabo Verde. South Africa also records a strong improvement. A further five countries are moderate improvers, including Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Kenya and Senegal. At the same time, twelve countries are classified as strong decliners. Notable declines are observed in Niger, Zambia, Chad and Botswana (see Figures 68 and 69). Eleven countries are moderate decliners. Nineteen countries are classified as stagnant, with changes within plus or minus 0.3 points.

Interpretation should be made in light of the data structure. The protected areas sub-category has zero static exposure. **All component indicators were updated in v2.** Score changes therefore reflect updated protected area data rather than carry over values from v1. Even so, **movements may reflect revisions in reporting, boundary updates or improved coverage of protected areas datasets.** Score increases or declines indicate changes in measured protected area metrics, not a full assessment of conservation effectiveness or ecological outcomes.

Key biodiversity areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas

Figure 70: Top improvers (Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas sub-category)

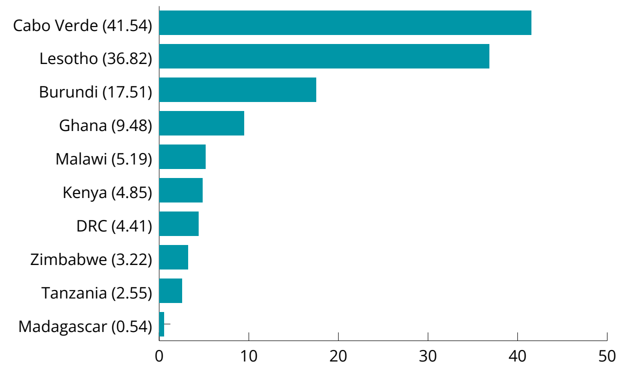
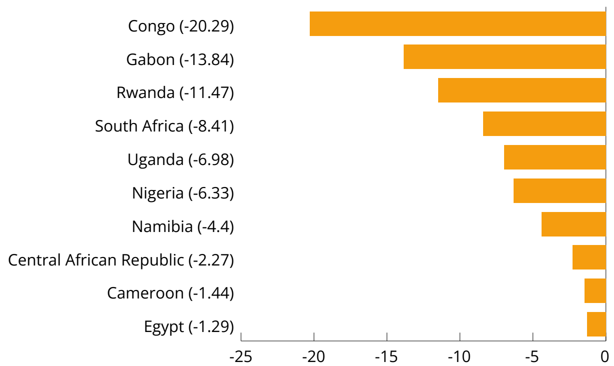


Figure 71: Top decliners (Key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas sub-category)



The key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas sub-category shows varied movements between v1 and v2. The average score increases slightly from 47.68 to 48.57. The median score also rises. This suggests a modest overall upward shift, although country level patterns differ considerably.

Nine countries are classified as strong improvers. The largest increases are recorded in Cabo Verde and Lesotho, followed by Burundi and Ghana. Malawi, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe and Tanzania also record gains of at least one point. Four countries are moderate improvers. At the same time, eleven countries are classified as strong decliners. Large declines are observed in Congo and Gabon. Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Nigeria and Namibia also record notable decreases (see Figures 70 and 71). Two countries are moderate decliners. More than half of countries are classified as stagnant, with changes within plus or minus 0.3 points.

This sub-category has zero static exposure. All component indicators were updated in v2. Score movements therefore reflect updated data on the proportion of key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. However, **changes may relate to revisions in protected area boundaries, improved spatial data, or updated reporting.** Score increases or declines indicate changes in measured coverage, not a full assessment of conservation outcomes or biodiversity conditions.

Wildlife legal framework

Figure 72: Top improvers (Wildlife legal framework sub-category)

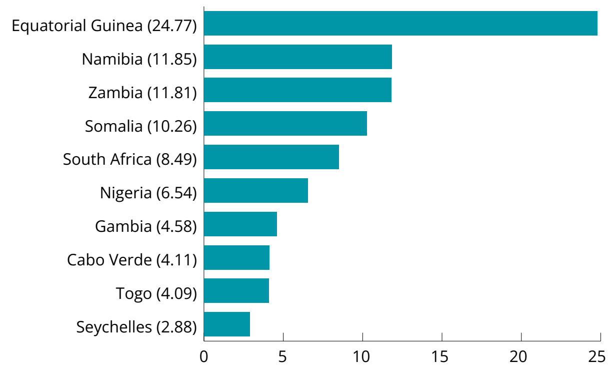
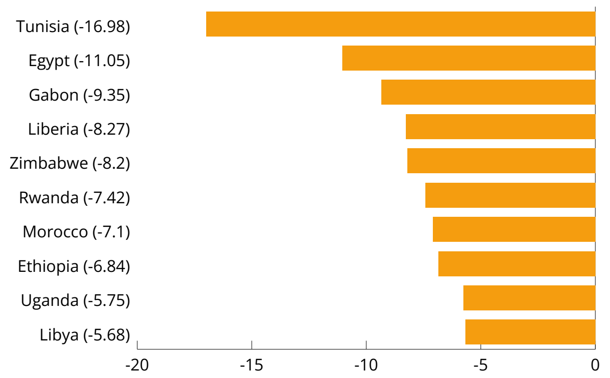


Figure 73: Top decliners (Wildlife legal framework sub-category)



The wildlife legal framework sub-category records an overall decline between v1 and v2. The average score falls from 62.93 to 61.72, and the median also decreases. Movements are uneven, with a clear concentration of negative changes.

Thirty two countries are classified as strong decliners. The largest declines are observed in Tunisia and Egypt, followed by Gabon, Liberia and Zimbabwe. Rwanda, Morocco, Ethiopia and Uganda also record substantial decreases. Three countries are moderate decliners and five are classified as stagnant. Thirteen countries are strong improvers. The largest increase is recorded in Equatorial Guinea, followed by Namibia and Zambia. Somalia, South Africa and Nigeria also show marked improvements (see Figures 72 and 73). Only one country is classified as a moderate improver.

This sub-category has a static exposure of 30%. Three of the ten indicators did not update in v2. As all indicators are equally weighted, almost one third of the score remains anchored to earlier data. Observed changes therefore reflect movements in the updated majority of indicators, but are partly moderated by structural inertia. **Score shifts indicate changes in reported legal frameworks and policy alignment, not a full assessment of implementation or enforcement in practice.**

Wildlife management effectiveness

Figure 74: Top improvers (Wildlife management effectiveness sub-category)

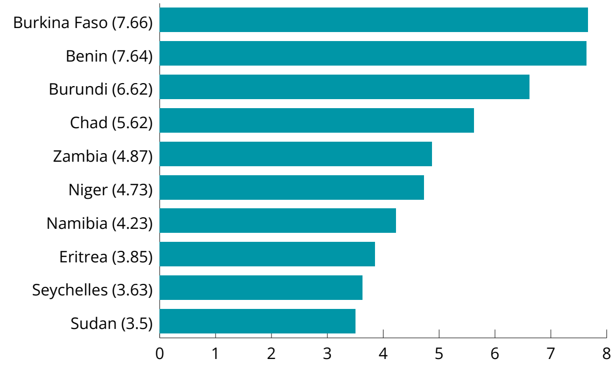
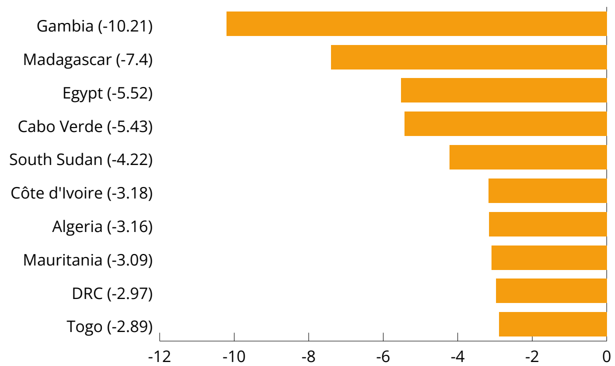


Figure 75: Top decliners (Wildlife management effectiveness sub-category)



The wildlife management effectiveness sub-category shows relative aggregate stability, with the mean score rising marginally from 52.37 to 52.64. However, this masks significant variation across countries.

Twenty four countries are classified as strong improvers. The largest score increases are recorded in Burkina Faso, Benin and Burundi. Chad, Zambia and Niger also show notable gains, alongside Namibia and Seychelles. Improvements are distributed across all tiers, suggesting broad-based movement within the updated indicators. Twenty countries are strong decliners. The largest decreases are observed in Gambia and Madagascar, followed by Egypt and Cabo Verde. South Sudan, Algeria and Mauritania also record clear downward shifts (see Figures 74 and 75). Two countries are moderate decliners and seven are stagnant. One country records a moderate improvement.

This sub-category has a static exposure of 34.4%, meaning just over one third of its indicators were not updated. As all indicators are equally weighted, part of the score remains anchored to earlier data. Observed changes therefore reflect adjustments across the updated majority of indicators, but are moderated by structural continuity. **Movements should be read as changes in reported management performance and environmental governance measures within the available datasets, rather than as a complete assessment of on-the-ground effectiveness.**

Business operations

Figure 76: Top improvers (Business operations sub-category)

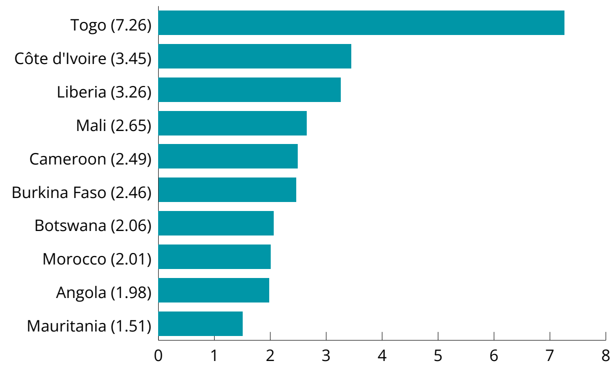
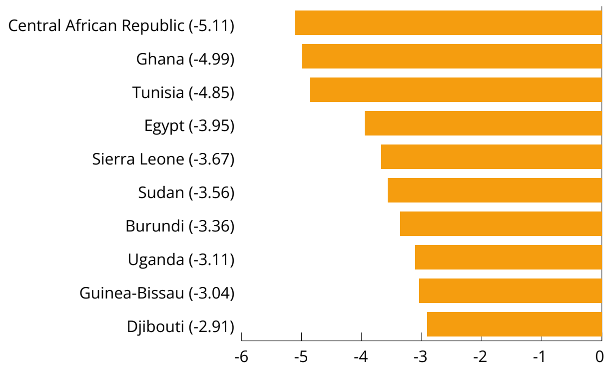


Figure 77: Top decliners (Business operations sub-category)



The business operations sub-category records a slight decline in the mean score, from 60.55 to 60.01. Overall stability at aggregate level conceals varied country level movements.

Twelve countries are classified as strong improvers. The largest increase is observed in Togo, followed by Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Mali, Cameroon and Burkina Faso also register clear gains, alongside Botswana and Morocco. Angola and Mauritania record more moderate but still strong improvements. These changes indicate measurable shifts across the updated components of the business regulatory and operational environment. Nineteen countries are strong decliners. The most pronounced decreases are recorded in the Central African Republic, Ghana, Tunisia, Egypt and Sierra Leone. Uganda, Djibouti and Namibia also show notable reductions (see Figures 76 and 77). Six countries are moderate decliners and seven are stagnant. Three countries record moderate improvements.

This sub-category has a static exposure of 43.1%, one of the highest in the Index. **A substantial share of indicators therefore retained their previous values.** Score changes reflect adjustments within the updated portion of the dataset, while nearly half of the weighting remains structurally anchored. **Movements should be interpreted as shifts in reported business conditions within available data, moderated by this relatively high degree of structural continuity.**

Access to finances (and other resources)

Figure 78: Top improvers (Access to finances and other resources sub-category)

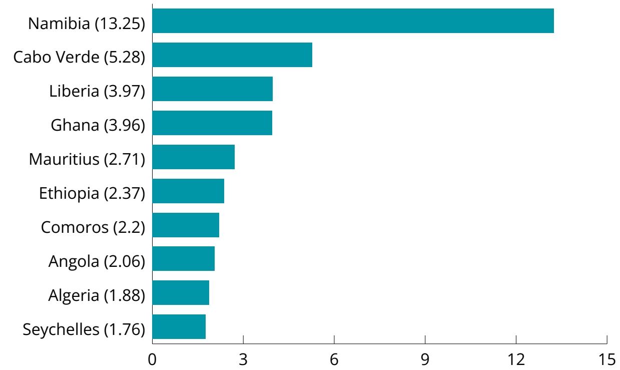
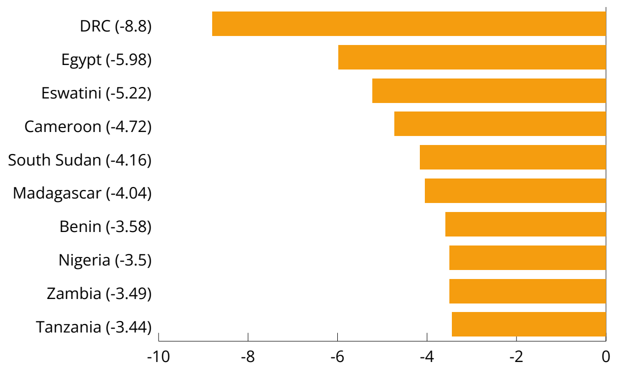


Figure 79: Top decliners (Access to finances and other resources sub-category)



The access to finances (and other resources) sub-category shows a modest decline in the mean score, from 48.69 in v1 to 48.04 in v2. Beneath this limited aggregate movement, country level changes are more pronounced.

Thirteen countries are classified as strong improvers. The largest increase is recorded in Namibia, followed by Cabo Verde, Liberia and Ghana. Mauritius, Ethiopia, Comoros and Angola also register clear gains. Algeria and Seychelles record strong improvements of smaller magnitude. These movements indicate positive shifts within the updated components of financial access and depth. At the same time, twenty two countries are strong decliners. The most substantial reductions occur in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Egypt. Eswatini, Cameroon, South Sudan and Madagascar also show marked declines (see Figures 78 and 79). Seven countries are moderate decliners, four are stagnant and two are moderate improvers.

This sub-category has a static exposure of 41.7%. A significant share of indicators therefore retained their previous values. Score changes reflect adjustments within the updated portion of the dataset, while a large proportion of the weighting remains anchored to earlier data. **Observed improvements or declines should therefore be read as changes within reported financial access conditions, moderated by this structural continuity.**

Access to markets

Figure 80: Top improvers (Access to markets sub-category)

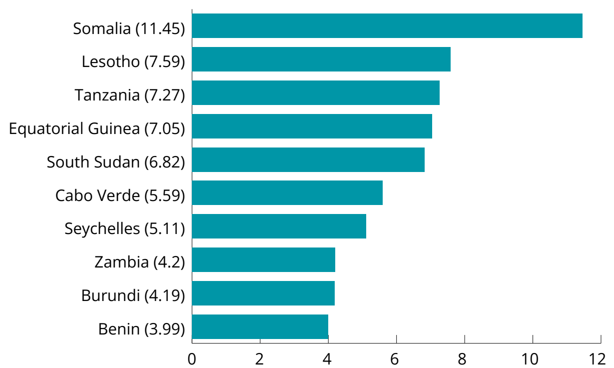
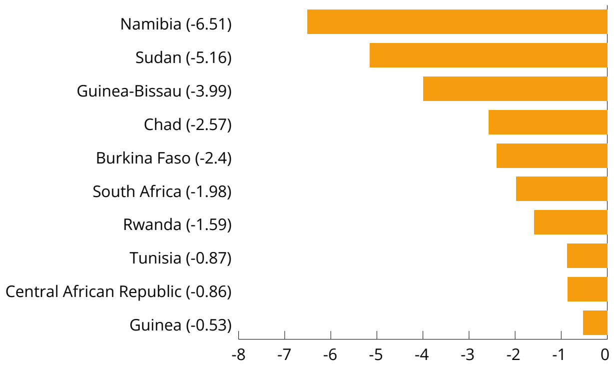


Figure 81: Top decliners (Access to markets sub-category)



The access to markets sub-category records an increase in the mean score, from 41.95 in v1 to 43.55 in v2. This reflects a broad upward shift across countries.

Thirty one countries are classified as strong improvers. The largest increases are observed in Somalia, Lesotho, Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea and South Sudan. Cabo Verde and Seychelles also record substantial gains. A number of upper and middle tier countries, including Ghana, Senegal, Togo and Zambia, show clear improvements of more than one point. These movements indicate positive shifts within the updated components related to trade openness, market structure and regional integration.

Seven countries are strong decliners. Namibia records a marked decline, alongside Sudan and Guinea-Bissau. Rwanda and Burkina Faso also show clear reductions (see Figures 80 and 81). Six countries are moderate improvers and six are moderate decliners, while two are stagnant.

This sub-category has a static exposure of 41.2%. A significant share of indicators retained their previous values. The overall upward pattern therefore reflects changes within the updated portion of the dataset, while a large part of the weighting remains anchored to earlier data. **Improvements should be read as measured progress within available data, moderated by this structural continuity.**

Anti-corruption

Figure 82: Top improvers (Anti-corruption sub-category)

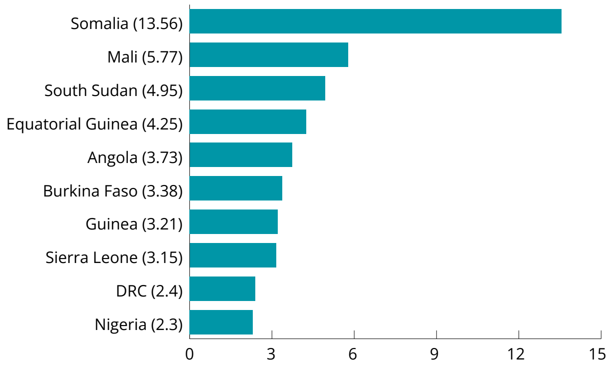
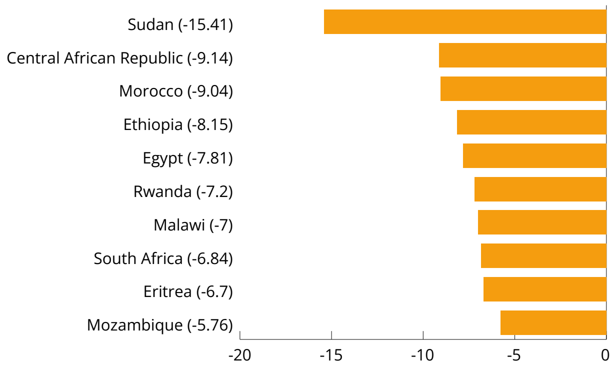


Figure 83: Top decliners (Anti-corruption sub-category)



The anti-corruption sub-category records a decline in the mean score, from 47.44 in v1 to 46.09 in v2. The overall pattern is weighted towards negative movement.

Twenty six countries are classified as strong decliners. The largest reduction is observed in Sudan, followed by the Central African Republic, Morocco and Ethiopia. Egypt, Rwanda, Malawi and South Africa also record substantial declines. These changes are not confined to one part of the distribution and include both higher and lower scoring countries.

Fifteen countries are strong improvers. The largest increase is recorded in Somalia. Mali, South Sudan and Equatorial Guinea also show marked gains. Angola, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Sierra Leone register improvements of more than three points (see Figures 82 and 83). Six countries are moderate improvers, five are moderate decliners and two are stagnant.

Static exposure in this sub-category is low at 8.7% Most indicators were updated in v2. Movements therefore reflect changes across a largely refreshed set of governance and perception measures. While this strengthens confidence that score shifts are driven by updated inputs, improvements or declines should be interpreted as changes in measured anti-corruption conditions rather than definitive statements about underlying institutional performance.

Rule of law

Figure 84: Top improvers (Rule of law sub-category)

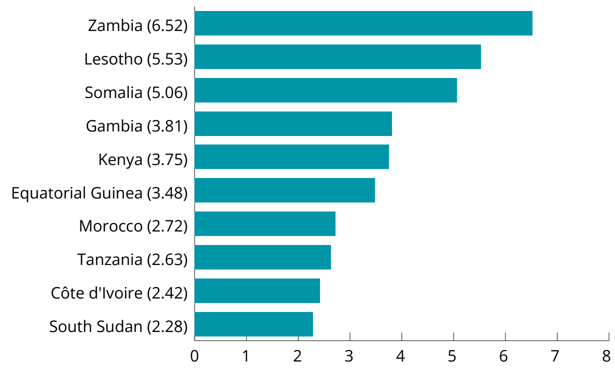
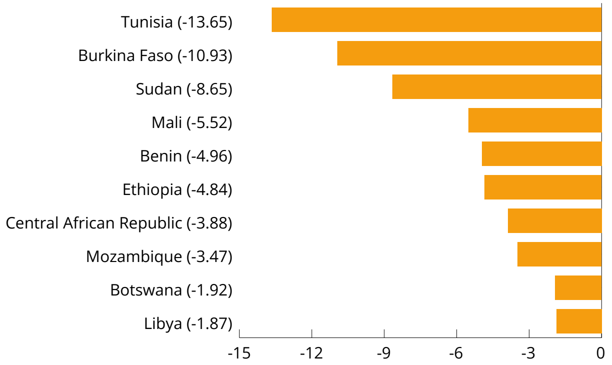


Figure 85: Top decliners (Rule of law sub-category)



The rule of law sub-category records a marginal decline in the mean score, from 46.16 in v1 to 45.98 in v2. The overall average is broadly stable, but country level movements are substantial in both directions.

Twenty one countries are classified as strong improvers. Zambia records the largest increase, followed by Lesotho and Somalia. Gambia and Kenya also post gains above three points. Improvements are observed across upper, middle and lower scoring countries. Eight countries register moderate improvements.

Fifteen countries are strong decliners. Tunisia records the largest reduction, followed by Burkina Faso and Sudan. Mali, Benin and Ethiopia also post notable declines (see Figures 84 and 85). Five countries are moderate decliners and one is stagnant. Declines are present in both higher and lower scoring groups, indicating that movement is not confined to one part of the distribution.

Static exposure in this sub-category is low at 5.1%. Almost all indicators were updated in v2. Score changes therefore reflect shifts across a largely refreshed set of institutional, judicial and governance measures. **Movements should be read as changes in measured rule of law conditions within available datasets, rather than definitive judgements on underlying legal or political systems.**

Infrastructure

Figure 86: Top improvers (Infrastructure sub-category)

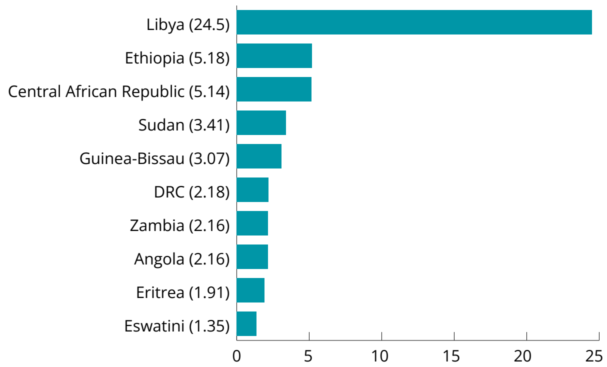
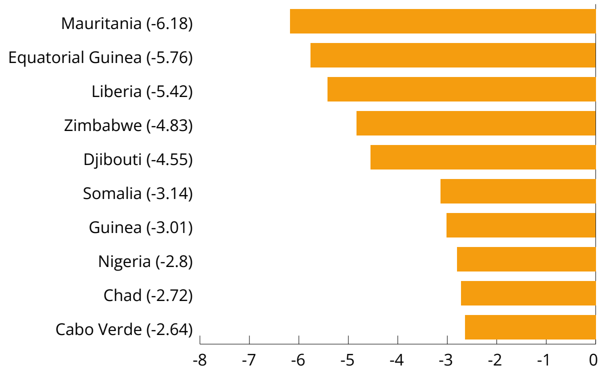


Figure 87: Top decliners (Infrastructure sub-category)



The infrastructure sub-category records a slight decline in the mean score, from 44.23 in v1 to 43.88 in v2. Overall movement is modest at aggregate level, but country level shifts are pronounced.

Ten countries are classified as strong improvers. Libya records the largest increase by a wide margin. Ethiopia and the Central African Republic also post gains above five points. Sudan and Guinea-Bissau show increases above three points. Improvements are concentrated among lower and middle scoring countries, though Eswatini and Zambia also record gains.

Twenty four countries are strong decliners. Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia register the largest reductions. Zimbabwe and Djibouti also record notable declines (see Figures 86 and 87). Several upper scoring countries, including Egypt, Seychelles, Tunisia, Ghana and Cabo Verde, post reductions exceeding one point. Six countries are moderate decliners and nine are stagnant.

Static exposure in this sub-category is high at 62.5%. A majority of infrastructure indicators were not updated in v2. This introduces structural inertia into the scores. Observed changes therefore reflect movement in a limited set of updated indicators, while a large share of the sub-category remains anchored to earlier data. As a result, both improvements and declines should be interpreted with caution, especially where changes are modest.

Labour market

Figure 88: Top improvers (Labour market sub-category)

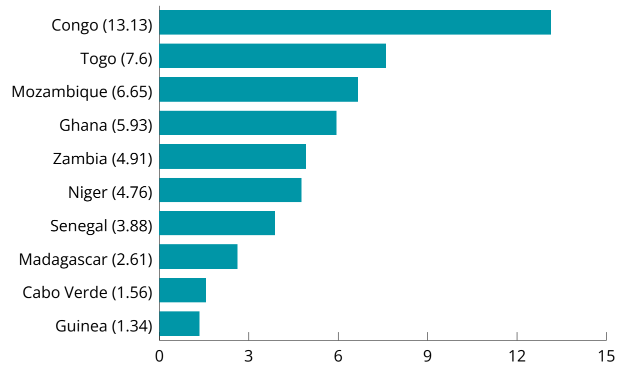
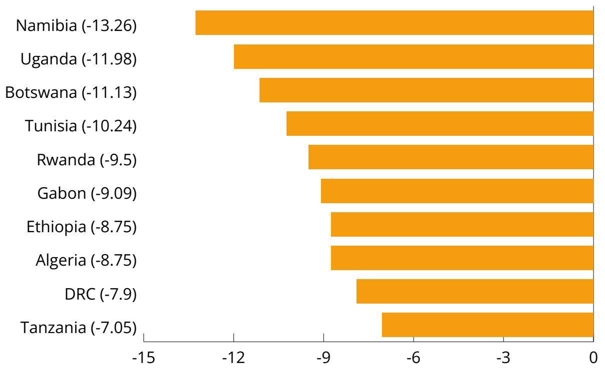


Figure 89: Top decliners (Labour market sub-category)



The labour market sub-category records a decline in the mean score, from 56.58 in v1 to 54.13 in v2. The overall shift is downward, though country level movements vary considerably.

Ten countries are classified as strong improvers. Congo records the largest increase, followed by Togo and Mozambique. Ghana, Zambia and Niger also post gains above four points. Several of these improvements occur among lower and middle scoring countries, though Ghana and Cabo Verde show gains from higher starting positions.

Twenty six countries are strong decliners. Namibia records the largest reduction, followed by Uganda and Botswana. Tunisia, Rwanda, Gabon and Ethiopia also post substantial declines (see Figures 88 and 89). Declines are observed across upper, middle and lower scoring groups. Two countries are moderate decliners, four are moderate improvers and two are stagnant.

Static exposure in this sub-category is 50%. Half of the labour market indicators were not updated in v2. This creates a significant degree of structural inertia. Observed score changes therefore reflect movement within the updated half of the indicator set, while the remaining half remains anchored to earlier data. Both improvements and declines should be interpreted as changes in measured labour market conditions within the available datasets, rather than comprehensive shifts across all labour market dimensions.

Social inclusion

Figure 90: Top improvers (Social inclusion sub-category)

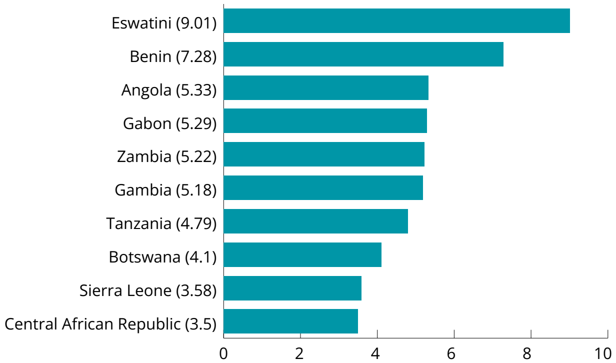
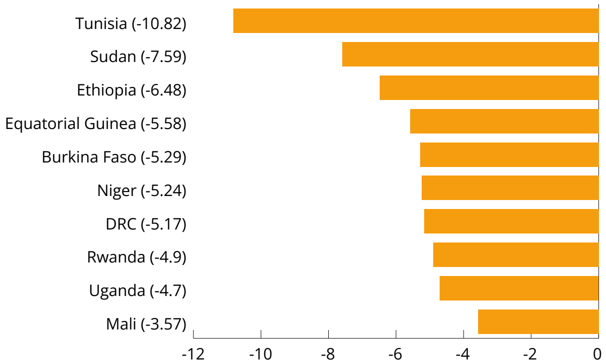


Figure 91: Top decliners (Social inclusion sub-category)



The social inclusion sub-category is broadly stable at aggregate level. The mean score declines slightly from 56.48 in v1 to 56.28 in v2. Behind this stability, country level movements are substantial and occur in both directions.

Nineteen countries are classified as strong improvers. Eswatini records the largest increase, followed by Benin and Angola. Gabon, Zambia, Gambia and Tanzania also post gains above four points. Improvements are observed across upper, middle and lower scoring countries, indicating movement throughout the distribution rather than within a single group.

Twenty four countries are strong decliners. Tunisia records the largest reduction, followed by Sudan and Ethiopia. Equatorial Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger and the Democratic Republic of the Congo also post notable declines (see Figures 90 and 91). Four countries are moderate decliners, four are moderate improvers and two are stagnant.

Static exposure in this sub-category is zero per cent. All indicators were updated in v2. Score changes therefore reflect shifts across a fully refreshed set of equality, inclusion and rights-based measures. **Movements should be interpreted as changes in measured social inclusion conditions within the available datasets, without assuming that short term score shifts capture the full complexity of social and institutional dynamics.**

Money growth

Figure 92: Top improvers (Money growth sub-category)

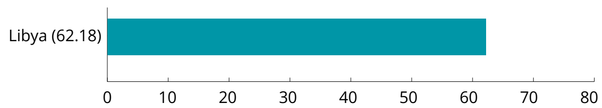
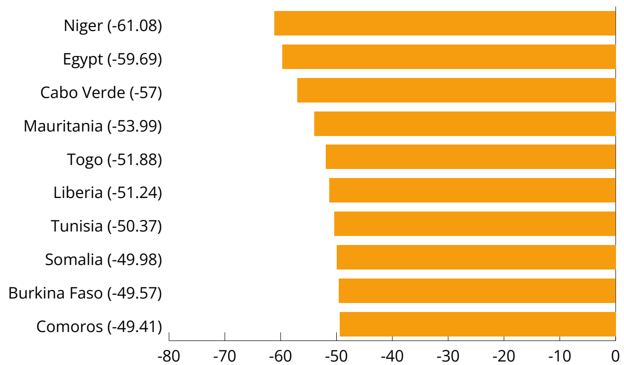


Figure 93: Top decliners (Money growth sub-category)



The money growth sub-category records a sharp and widespread decline between v1 and v2. The mean score falls from 72.42 to 34.08, indicating a broad downward shift across countries rather than isolated changes.

Forty nine of the fifty assessed countries are classified as strong decliners. The largest reductions are observed in Niger, Egypt and Cabo Verde, each recording declines of more than fifty points. Substantial decreases are also evident in Mauritania, Togo, Liberia and Tunisia. Declines affect countries across all prior performance levels, including many that previously scored in the upper third.

Libya is the only strong improver, with a large increase from a low base (see Figures 92 and 93). No countries fall into the moderate improver, moderate decliner or stagnant categories. The pattern is therefore highly concentrated in the strong decline range.

Static exposure in this sub-category is zero per cent. All four component indicators were updated in v2. Score movements therefore reflect changes in refreshed macroeconomic and returns based measures within the available datasets. **The scale and consistency of the decline suggest a systemic shift in measured monetary and growth conditions rather than minor statistical variation, while recognising that short term volatility may influence individual country results.**

Property rights

Figure 94: Top improvers (Property rights sub-category)

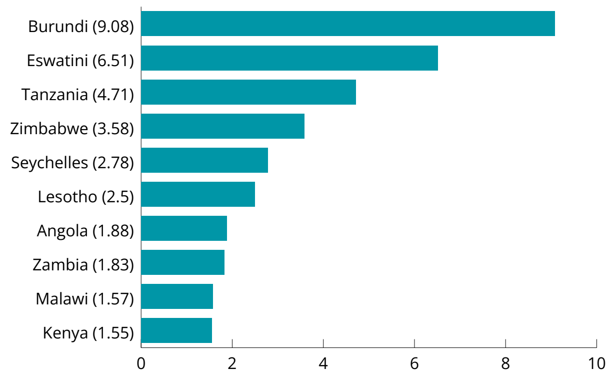
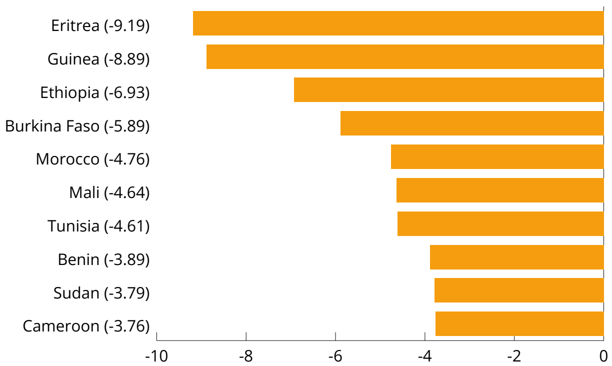


Figure 95: Top decliners (Property rights sub-category)



The property rights sub-category shows a more mixed pattern than money growth. The mean score declines slightly from 51.73 to 50.61, indicating relative stability at aggregate level. However, country level movements are more varied.

Twenty seven countries are classified as strong decliners. The largest decreases are recorded in Eritrea, Guinea and Ethiopia. Notable declines are also observed in Burkina Faso, Morocco and Mali. These reductions are generally moderate in scale compared with the sharp shifts seen in money growth.

At the same time, eleven countries register strong improvement. Burundi records the largest gain, followed by Eswatini and Tanzania. Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Lesotho, Angola and Zambia also post increases above the strong improver threshold (see Figures 94 and 95). A further four countries show moderate improvement, while four are classified as stagnant and three as moderate decliners.

Static exposure in this sub-category is 28.6%. Two of the seven component indicators were not updated in v2. This introduces a degree of structural inertia. **Observed changes therefore reflect movements in the updated governance and institutional measures, moderated by the continued influence of unchanged property rights indicators.**

Security and stability

Figure 96: Top improvers (Security and stability sub-category)

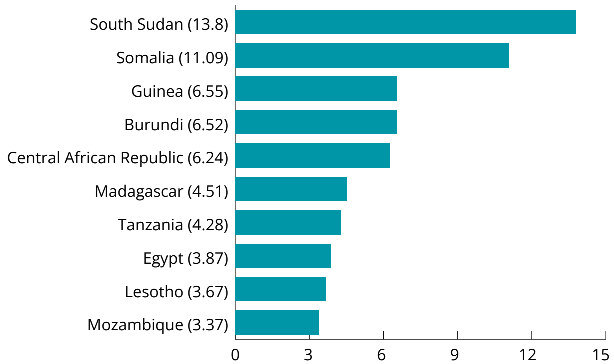
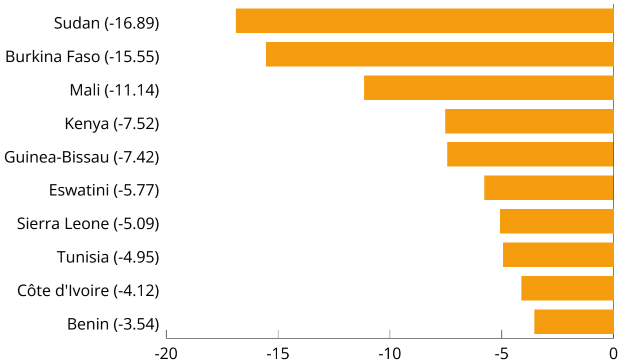


Figure 97: Top decliners (Security and stability sub-category)



The security and stability sub-category remains broadly stable at aggregate level. The mean score shifts marginally from 64.54 to 63.94, indicating limited overall movement. However, country level changes are substantial and more evenly distributed than in other sub-categories.

Nineteen countries are classified as strong improvers. The largest gains are recorded in South Sudan and Somalia, followed by Guinea, Burundi and the Central African Republic. Several middle scoring countries, including Madagascar, Tanzania and Egypt, also register notable increases.

At the same time, twenty one countries are strong decliners. The most pronounced decreases are observed in Sudan, Burkina Faso and Mali. Kenya and Guinea-Bissau also record sizeable reductions (see Figures 96 and 97). A further four countries are moderate decliners, seven are stagnant, and only one is a moderate improver.

Static exposure in this sub-category is 25%. A quarter of the component indicators were not updated in v2. This introduces some structural inertia. **Movements therefore reflect changes in updated conflict, crime and political stability measures, moderated by the continued influence of unchanged indicators.**

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CONCLUSION

Conclusion

The Wildlife Economy Investment Index Version 2 presents a detailed picture of the potential of Africa's wildlife economy. The continent possesses extraordinary natural wealth. From the forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin to the savannah and marine environments of southern and eastern Africa, Africa holds a globally disproportionate share of the world's biodiversity. Wildlife assets, when well managed and supported by strong institutions, represent a durable foundation for wildlife economy activities, supporting sustainable development, conservation finance and rural livelihoods.

Yet the WEII v2 also surfaces a persistent challenge: the gap between potential and performance. Countries that hold exceptional wildlife assets do not always have the governance structures, financial access or infrastructure to translate those assets into investment. And countries with strong institutional frameworks do not always possess the ecological depth required to build a competitive wildlife economy. Bridging this gap is the key strategic challenge the Index reflects.

What the results tell us

The Investment-enabling Environment continues to outperform Wildlife Status at the continental level. Governance systems, rule of law and business regulation have, on average, developed further than the conservation and management systems that underpin the wildlife economy itself. The overall decline in scores between Version 1 and Version 2, concentrated in investment safety and macroeconomic conditions, reinforces how sensitive wildlife economy readiness is to wider economic pressures.

Wildlife Status shows relative stability between editions, though this requires careful interpretation. Of the 280 indicators in the Index, 75 retained their Version 1 values in Version 2 due to data update cycles, representing 26.8% of the overall Index. This static exposure is not evenly distributed. Wildlife-related components carry a higher share of unchanged indicators than governance and institutional components. Ecological habitats, for instance, has a static exposure of 83.3%, meaning that stability in this sub-category reflects data continuity as much as unchanged ecological conditions on the ground. By contrast, rule of law, anti-corruption, social inclusion and money growth are almost fully updated, and movements in these areas carry stronger informational weight. **Readers should therefore interpret score changes with an awareness of which components are driven by refreshed data and which remain partially anchored to earlier values.** Stability does not always mean nothing has changed. It sometimes means the data has not yet caught up.

With this context in mind, the wildlife assets category remains the lowest-scoring of all five categories in the Index. Protected area coverage is uneven, endemic species are concentrated in a handful of countries, and the gap between legal frameworks for wildlife management and actual management effectiveness remains wide across much of the continent. Data gaps in fully understanding wildlife assets also exist.

Country and regional insights

Among the leading performers, Seychelles, South Africa, Namibia, Mauritius and Tanzania each demonstrate the value of combining ecological strength with institutional quality. At the other end, Somalia, Eritrea, South Sudan and Sudan face compound challenges across ecology, governance and security. Countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic and Congo represent a third important group: ecological giants constrained by institutional and governance challenges, whose wildlife economy potential remains largely unrealised.

Regionally, southern Africa performs most strongly overall, combining biodiversity assets with robust governance and investment safety. Western Africa shows regulatory and market access strengths. Eastern Africa holds the continent's richest species diversity alongside improving financial conditions. Central Africa is ecologically important but institutionally constrained. Northern Africa has well-developed infrastructure but limited wildlife assets. These differences mean that regional approaches to wildlife economy development must be genuinely differentiated, not treated as variations on a single continental model. This also illustrates the opportunity for a diversified wildlife economy across Africa, leveraging each region's strengths and collaborating for greater overall impact in terms of conservation and development.

Guidance for investors, policymakers and development partners

For investors, the WEII v2 offers a layered decision-making framework. Countries such as South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania, Seychelles and Zambia offer the clearest combination of ecological assets and enabling conditions. Countries including Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Botswana present lower operational barriers and may serve as regional platforms for activity extending into ecologically richer but institutionally weaker neighbours. Across all contexts, investors should pay close attention to the distinction between legal frameworks and management effectiveness, one of the most practically important signals the Index provides.

For policymakers, the most urgent priority is the wildlife assets gap. Expanding protected and conserved area coverage, strengthening connectivity between conservation areas and closing the gap between wildlife legislation and enforcement on the ground are foundational requirements. In the enabling environment, access to finance for wildlife-based enterprises, market integration and anti-corruption reform represent the areas where targeted action is most likely to shift investment conditions meaningfully.

For development partners, the WEII v2 provides a diagnostic framework to direct technical assistance where it will have greatest leverage. Structurally constrained countries need foundational governance and stabilisation support before wildlife economy programming can take hold. Countries with strong ecological assets but weak enabling environments represent a different kind of opportunity, where targeted institutional support can unlock substantial latent potential.

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Looking ahead

Producing a second edition also creates the opportunity for honest reflection on what the WEII does not yet capture. Several limitations must be addressed in Version 3.

The structural imbalance between sub-indices is the most significant. With 220 indicators in the Investment-enabling Environment against only 60 in Wildlife Status, the WEII is more sensitive to institutional conditions than ecological ones. The static exposure analysis further compounds this concern. Because wildlife-related indicators are more likely to be unchanged between editions, real ecological deterioration may go undetected while governance improvements are picked up promptly. This asymmetry must be corrected.

Equally important is the absence of abundance metrics. The WEII measures how many species are present but not how many individuals exist. A country can score well on species richness whilst experiencing severe wildlife population declines, and a country like Botswana, which holds large and stable populations of flagship species, may score comparatively low despite exceptional wildlife economy potential. The current indicator set also over-represents forest and mountain ecosystems while under-representing savannahs, arid rangelands and the flagship species that actually drive wildlife tourism and conservation finance. Governance indicators reward legislation and treaty compliance over enforcement effectiveness and community rights. And the Index focuses heavily on tourism whilst providing minimal insight into wildlife ranching, community conservancies, sustainable hunting, game meat value chains, fisheries, non-timber forest products and domestic conservation finance, all of which are essential to how African countries generate value from wildlife.

Version 3 must shift from extent metrics towards direct measures of ecological condition and integrity, incorporate wildlife abundance data, reduce indicator redundancy, address static exposure through improved data partnerships, and better capture the full range of sectors that constitute wildlife economies across the continent.

Africa's wildlife economy holds extraordinary promise. The biodiversity exists. The growing interest from global investors in nature-based and carbon solutions exists. What the WEII v2 makes clear is that promise and performance are not the same thing, and the distance between them varies enormously across countries and regions. Narrowing that distance is the defining challenge for Africa's wildlife economy in the years ahead. The Wildlife Economy Investment Index exists to help track that journey, and to ensure that the decisions of governments, investors and development partners are grounded in evidence rather than aspiration alone.

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