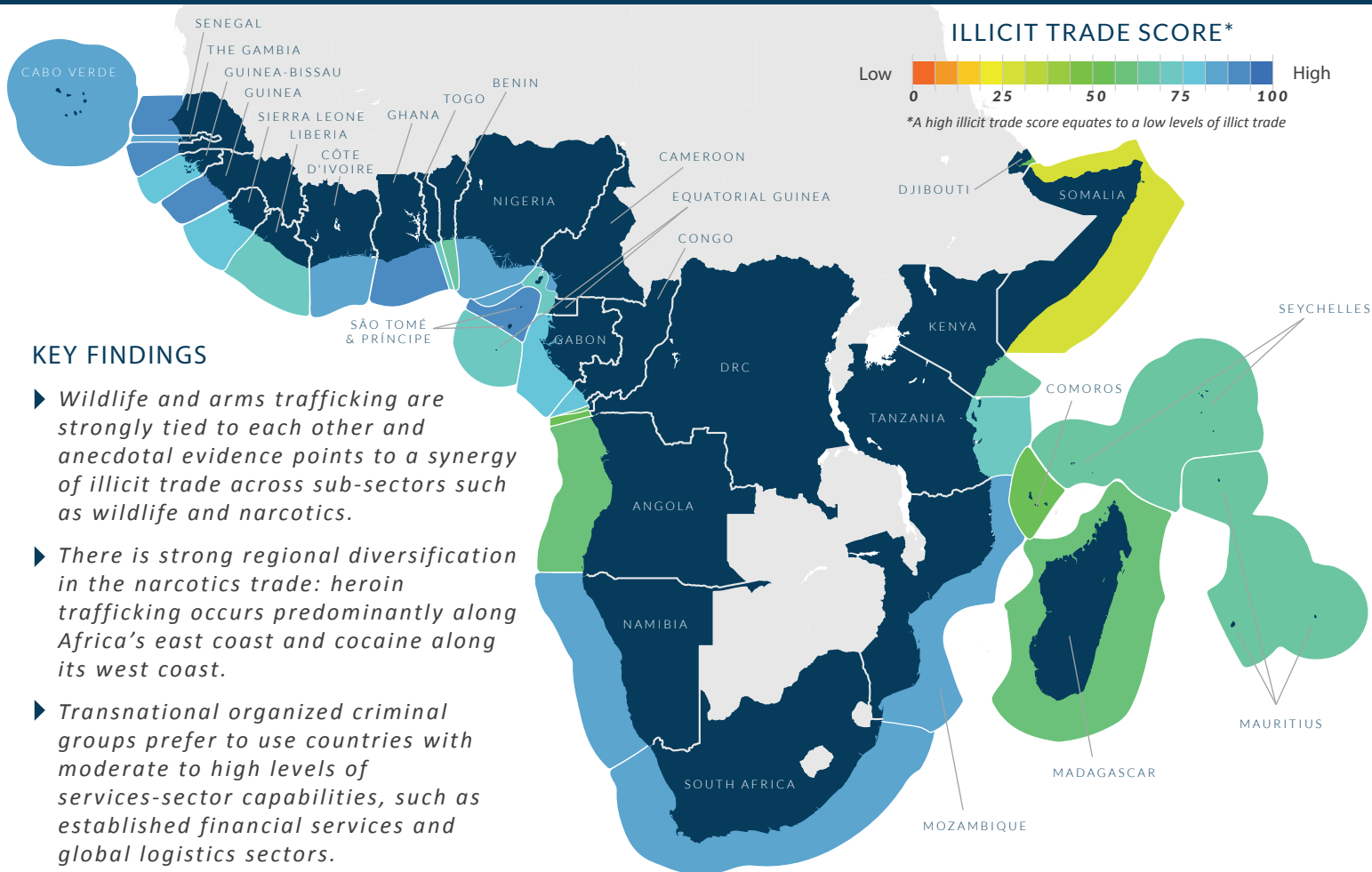
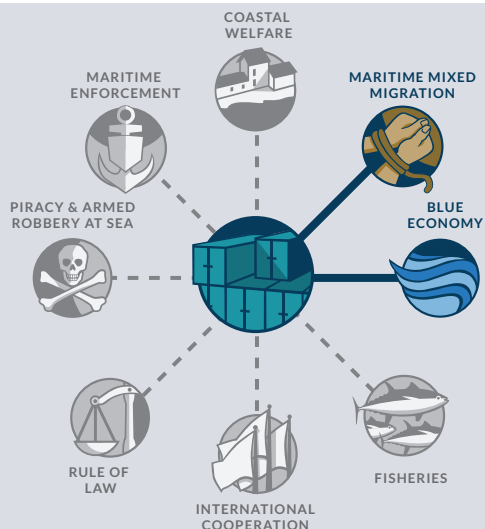


Organized crime and the rise of illicit markets are intractable governance problems that threaten the sovereignty and stability of states in sub-Saharan Africa. The convergence of criminal economy sub-sectors, evident in the trafficking of wildlife, narcotics, and weapons, and the utilization of those proceeds for the financing of armed conflict and terrorism is a significant and growing concern.



KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ *Wildlife and arms trafficking are strongly tied to each other and anecdotal evidence points to a synergy of illicit trade across sub-sectors such as wildlife and narcotics.*
- ▶ *There is strong regional diversification in the narcotics trade: heroin trafficking occurs predominantly along Africa's east coast and cocaine along its west coast.*
- ▶ *Transnational organized criminal groups prefer to use countries with moderate to high levels of services-sector capabilities, such as established financial services and global logistics sectors.*



KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUES AREAS

High Illicit Trade scores coincided with high scores in:

- ▶ **MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION:** *low levels of maritime-based migration are related to lower levels of trade in illicit goods*
- ▶ **BLUE ECONOMY:** *countries with strong blue economies had less trade in illicit goods*