

STABLE SEAS

MARITIME SECURITY INDEX

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The Stable Seas Maritime Security Index is a first-of-its-kind effort to measure and map a range of threats to maritime governance and the capacity of nations to counter these threats. By bringing diverse challenges like piracy, smuggling, and capacity-building into one comprehensive analysis, we can better understand how these issues intersect to affect maritime security. The Stable Seas Maritime Security Index covers 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Each state has its own unique combination of maritime security strengths and challenges. Practitioners and policymakers can use this tool to identify areas for development and expanded cooperation.

GOALS

- ▶ Assess current levels of maritime crime and monitor emerging threats
- ▶ Prioritize efforts to address the most critical challenges in maritime security
- ▶ Guide capacity-building efforts towards long-term, sustainable investments and away from quick solutions to narrowly-defined crimes
- ▶ Monitor progress towards greater maritime security, track the evolution of related issues, and measure and map quantitative indicators of maritime security

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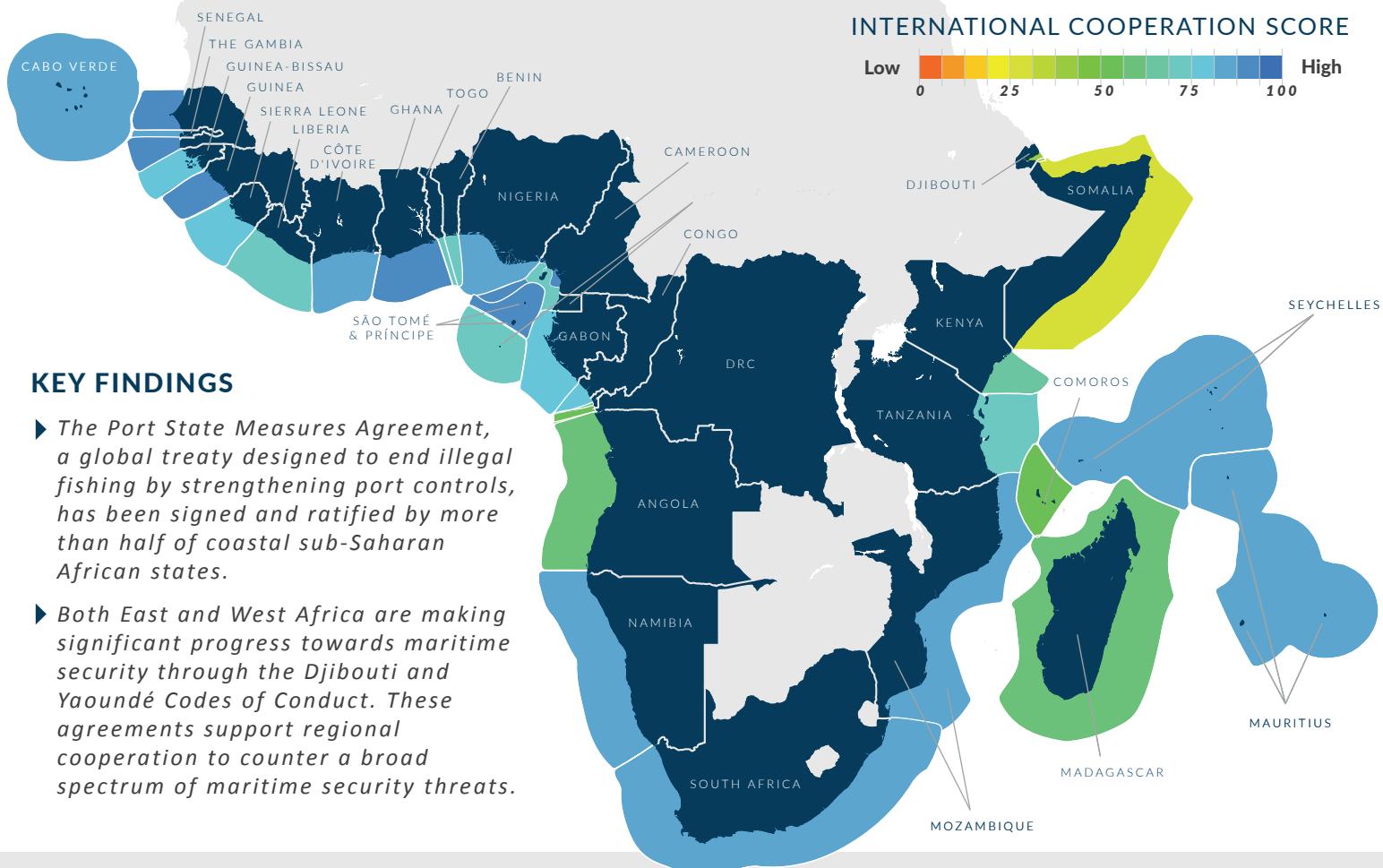
MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION

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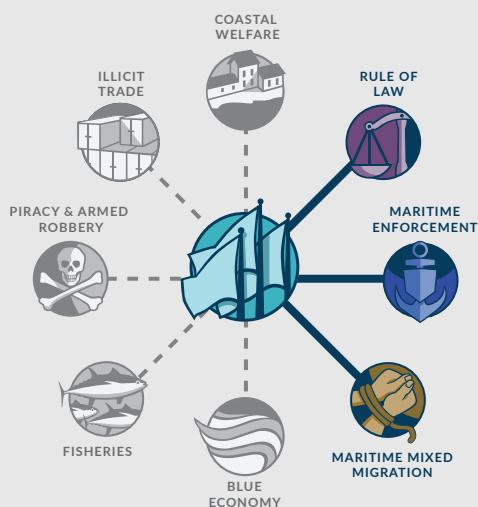
SCORING FACTORS: International Agreements, Regional Security Strategies, Violations and Disputes of Maritime Boundaries

Strong maritime governance requires global and regional International Cooperation. This cooperation includes global treaties designed to protect freedom of navigation and marine resources and regional commitments to end a range of transnational crimes. International actors have developed a variety of multilateral governance structures and capacity-building programs which facilitate security and governance.



KEY FINDINGS

- *The Port State Measures Agreement, a global treaty designed to end illegal fishing by strengthening port controls, has been signed and ratified by more than half of coastal sub-Saharan African states.*
- *Both East and West Africa are making significant progress towards maritime security through the Djibouti and Yaoundé Codes of Conduct. These agreements support regional cooperation to counter a broad spectrum of maritime security threats.*



KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS

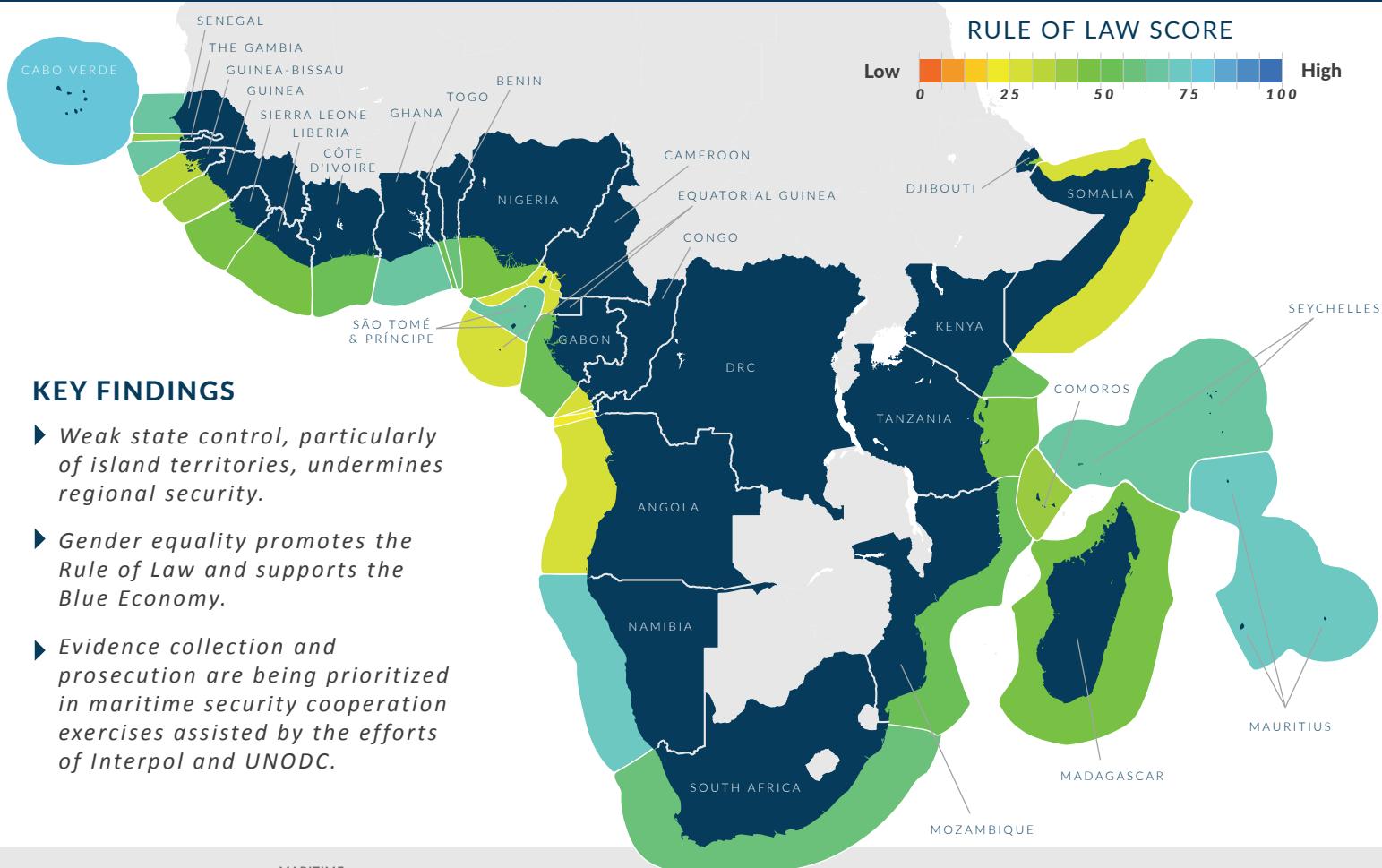
- **RULE OF LAW:** Countries with high Rule of Law scores are leaders in International Cooperation.
- **MARITIME ENFORCEMENT:** High Maritime Enforcement scores are related to strong International Cooperation.
- **MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION:** Maritime Mixed Migration scores are better in countries with strong International Cooperation.



RULE OF LAW

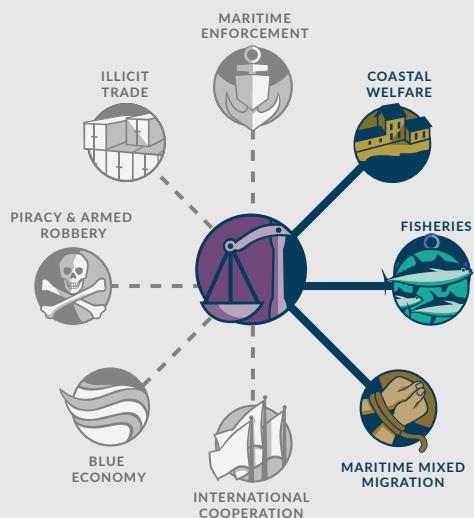
SCORING FACTORS: Corruption, Government Efficacy, Government Efficiency, Judicial Integrity, Inclusion

Rule of Law is crucial for translating good maritime security measures from paper to practice. Where legal structures are undermined by corruption, ineffectiveness, inefficiency, and inconsistent application of the law, legislative approaches to promoting maritime security cannot be enforced and legal measures have little impact.



KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Weak state control, particularly of island territories, undermines regional security.
- ▶ Gender equality promotes the Rule of Law and supports the Blue Economy.
- ▶ Evidence collection and prosecution are being prioritized in maritime security cooperation exercises assisted by the efforts of Interpol and UNODC.



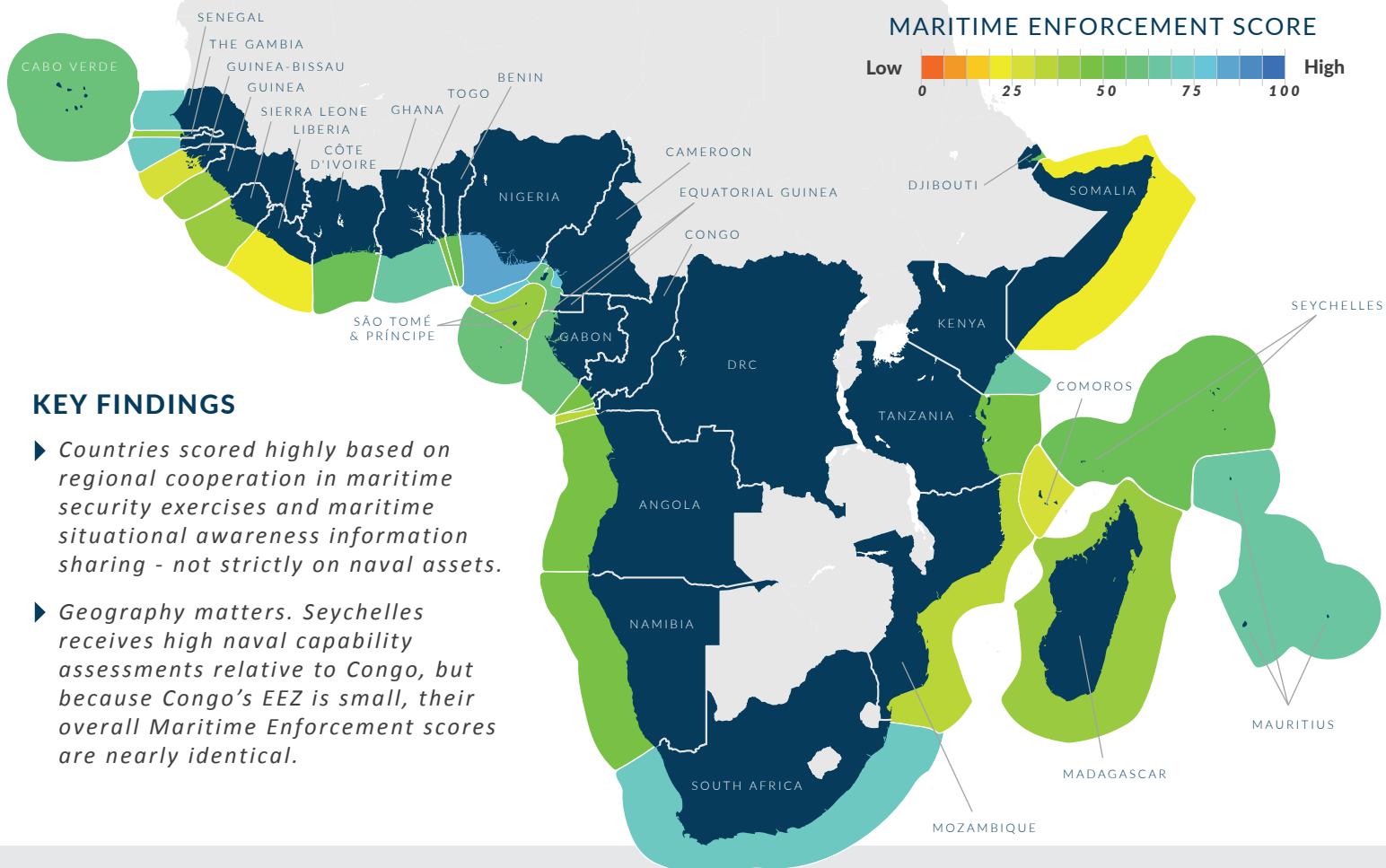
KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS

- ▶ **COASTAL WELFARE:** Strong Rule of Law supports better Coastal Welfare.
- ▶ **FISHERIES:** Fisheries received higher scores in countries with stronger Rule of Law.
- ▶ **MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION:** Migration and human trafficking at sea are lower in countries with strong Rule of Law.



SCORING FACTORS: Geographic Difficulty of Patrolling EEZ, Coastal Patrol Assets, Naval Capability, Maritime Situational Awareness

The Maritime Enforcement capacity of a littoral state is its strongest line of defense against the unlawful exploitation of a nation's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The navies, coast guards, and maritime police forces of sub-Saharan African states each face unique challenges and have varying capabilities, but all play important roles in safeguarding the maritime space and its resources.



KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Countries scored highly based on regional cooperation in maritime security exercises and maritime situational awareness information sharing - not strictly on naval assets.
- ▶ Geography matters. Seychelles receives high naval capability assessments relative to Congo, but because Congo's EEZ is small, their overall Maritime Enforcement scores are nearly identical.

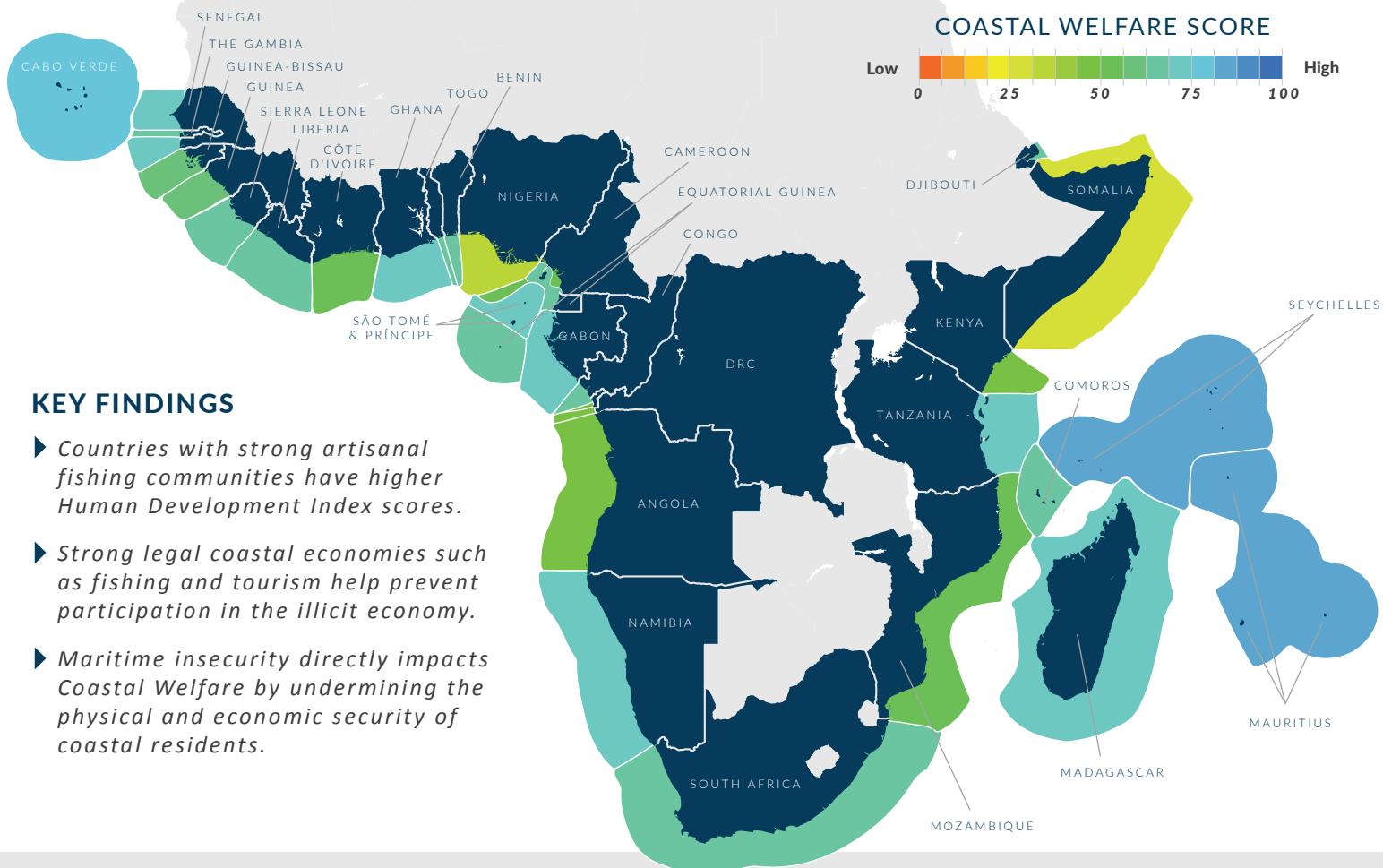


KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS

- ▶ **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:** Countries that cooperate across borders have higher capacity for Maritime Enforcement.
- ▶ **BLUE ECONOMY:** Strong Maritime Enforcement capacity is related to a stronger Blue Economy.



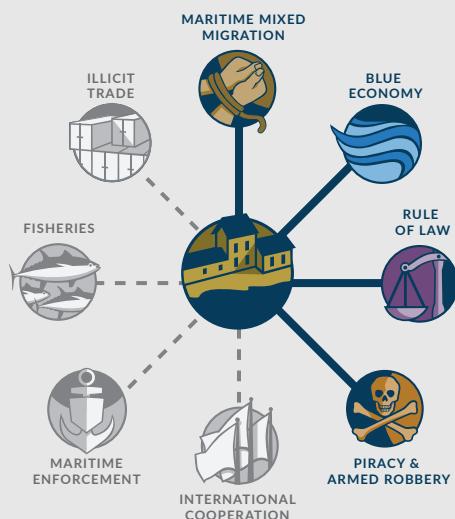
Violence and poverty on or near the coast can push residents toward maritime crime and the illicit maritime economy. Violent non-state actors operating on shore are likely to turn to the maritime space to smuggle arms and illicit goods. Transnational criminal networks are especially likely to establish themselves along coastlines that are weakly governed and affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence.



KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Countries with strong artisanal fishing communities have higher Human Development Index scores.
- ▶ Strong legal coastal economies such as fishing and tourism help prevent participation in the illicit economy.
- ▶ Maritime insecurity directly impacts Coastal Welfare by undermining the physical and economic security of coastal residents.

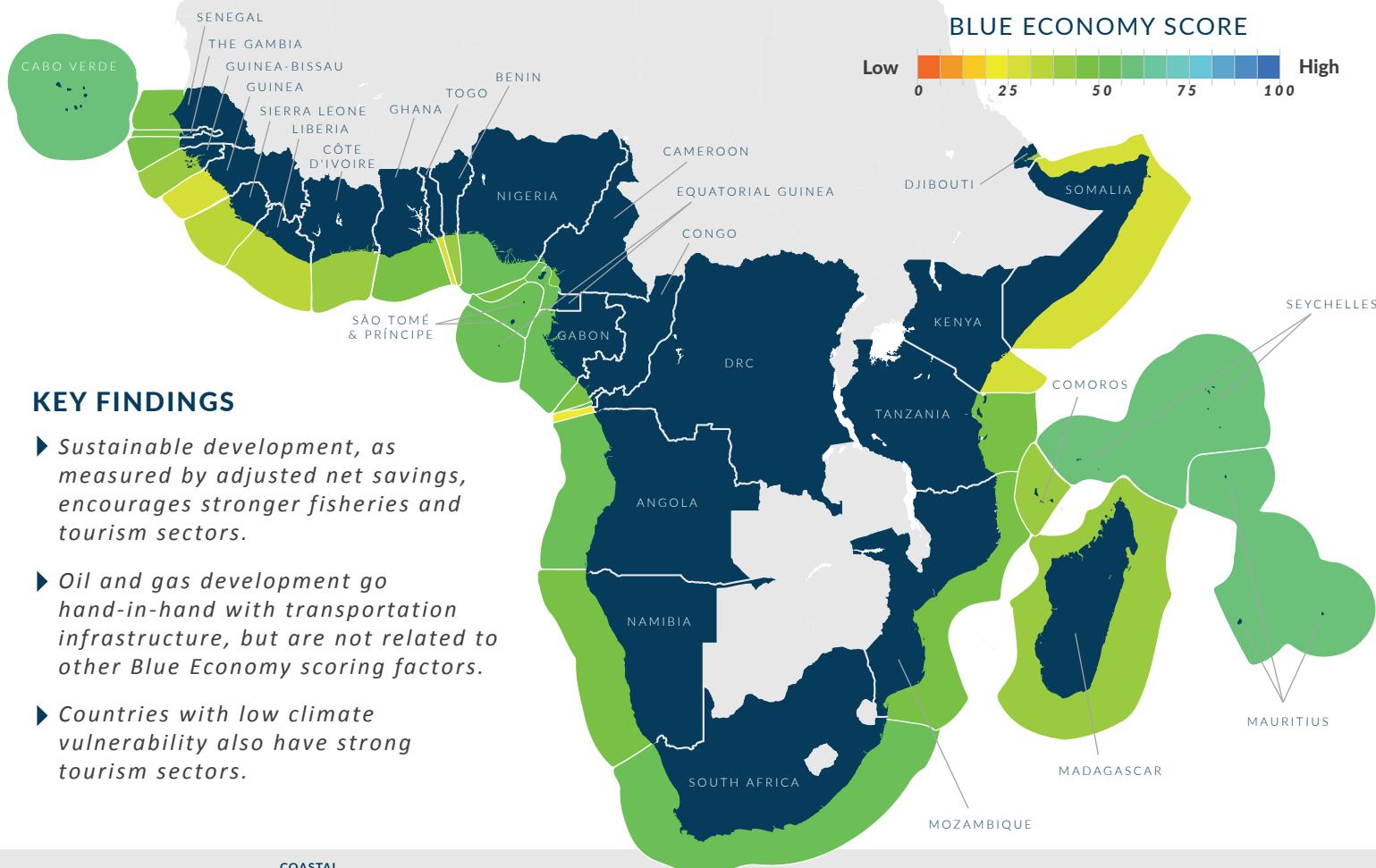
KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS



- ▶ **MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION:** Countries with lower rates of maritime-based migration and human trafficking had higher Coastal Welfare.
- ▶ **BLUE ECONOMY:** A strong Blue Economy and Coastal Welfare go hand-in-hand.
- ▶ **RULE OF LAW:** Where the Rule of Law is strong, violence is low and economic security is high.
- ▶ **PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY:** Where incidences of Piracy and Armed Robbery are low, Coastal Welfare is high.



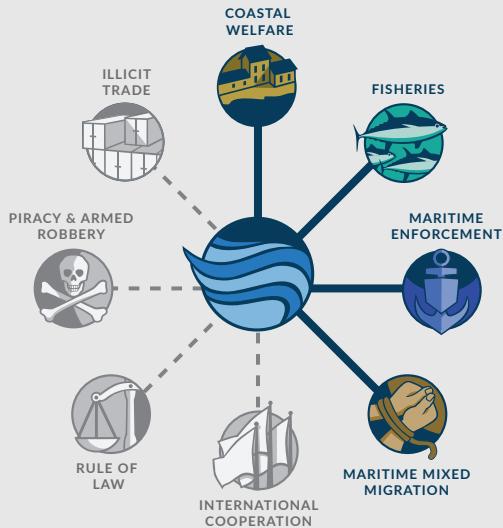
The Blue Economy is an important area of growth that could contribute significantly to a country's long-term resilience. Nations with strong economies are less likely to face conditions that precipitate widespread political violence and unrest. In Africa, the Blue Economy includes sectors that are untapped, inefficiently leveraged, or produce economic gain for foreign industries.



KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Sustainable development, as measured by adjusted net savings, encourages stronger fisheries and tourism sectors.
- ▶ Oil and gas development go hand-in-hand with transportation infrastructure, but are not related to other Blue Economy scoring factors.
- ▶ Countries with low climate vulnerability also have strong tourism sectors.

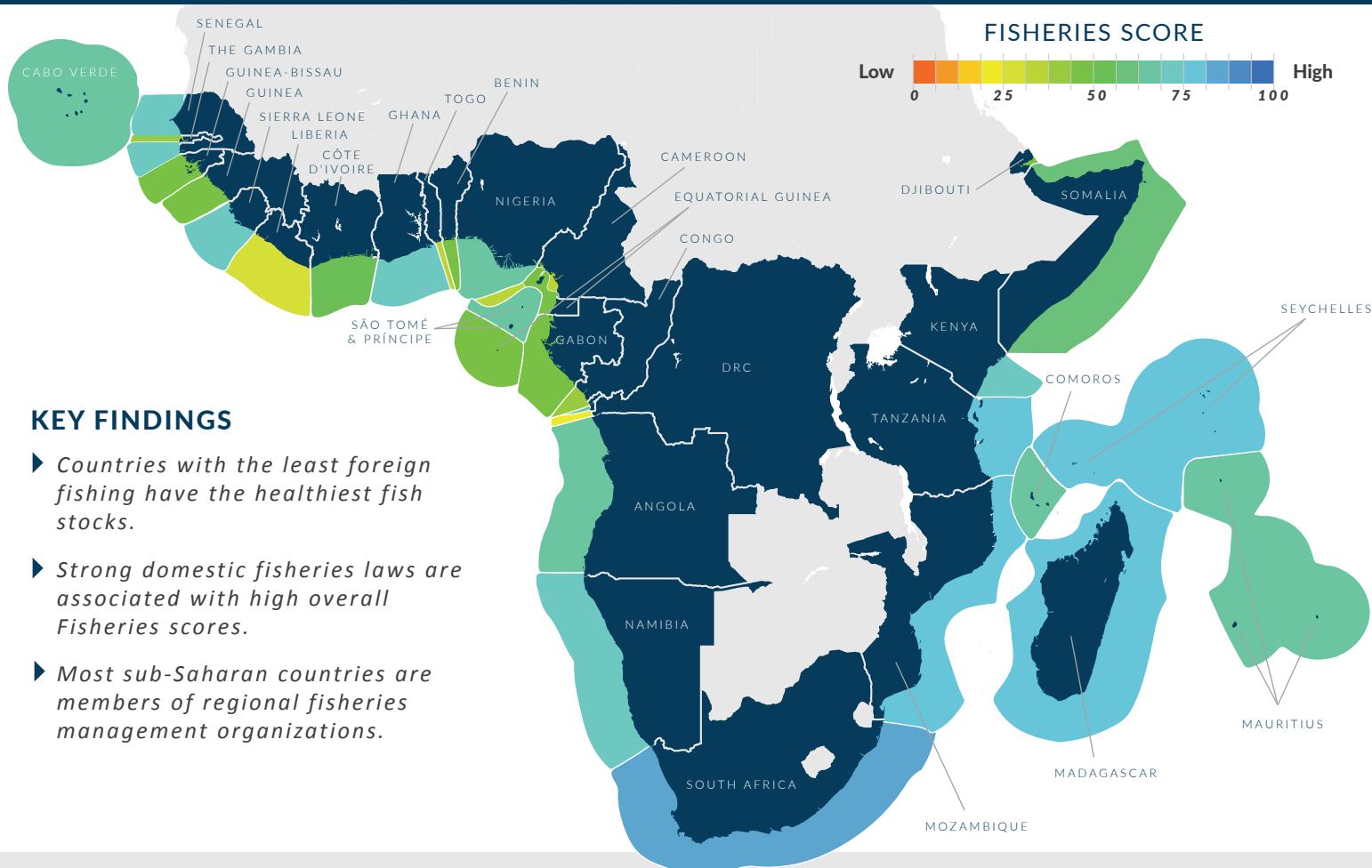
KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS



- ▶ **COASTAL WELFARE:** High Blue Economy scores are linked to high Coastal Welfare scores.
- ▶ **FISHERIES:** Healthy Fisheries coincide with a healthy Blue Economy.
- ▶ **MARITIME ENFORCEMENT:** Countries with strong Maritime Enforcement capacity also have a strong Blue Economy.
- ▶ **MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION:** Migration and human trafficking at sea are less prevalent in countries with a stronger Blue Economy.

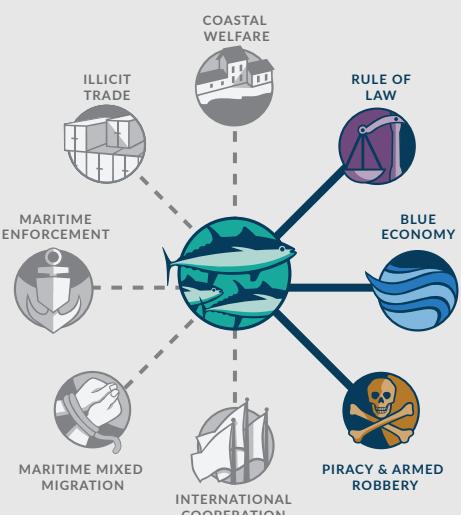


Fisheries are a critical component of economic and food security. As fish stocks decline, competition grows. Fisheries conflict includes attacks by foreign vessels; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; forced labor; and transportation of illicit goods. Fisheries provide food and income that support community resilience and reduce the root causes of territorial and resource conflict.



KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Countries with the least foreign fishing have the healthiest fish stocks.
- ▶ Strong domestic fisheries laws are associated with high overall Fisheries scores.
- ▶ Most sub-Saharan countries are members of regional fisheries management organizations.



KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS

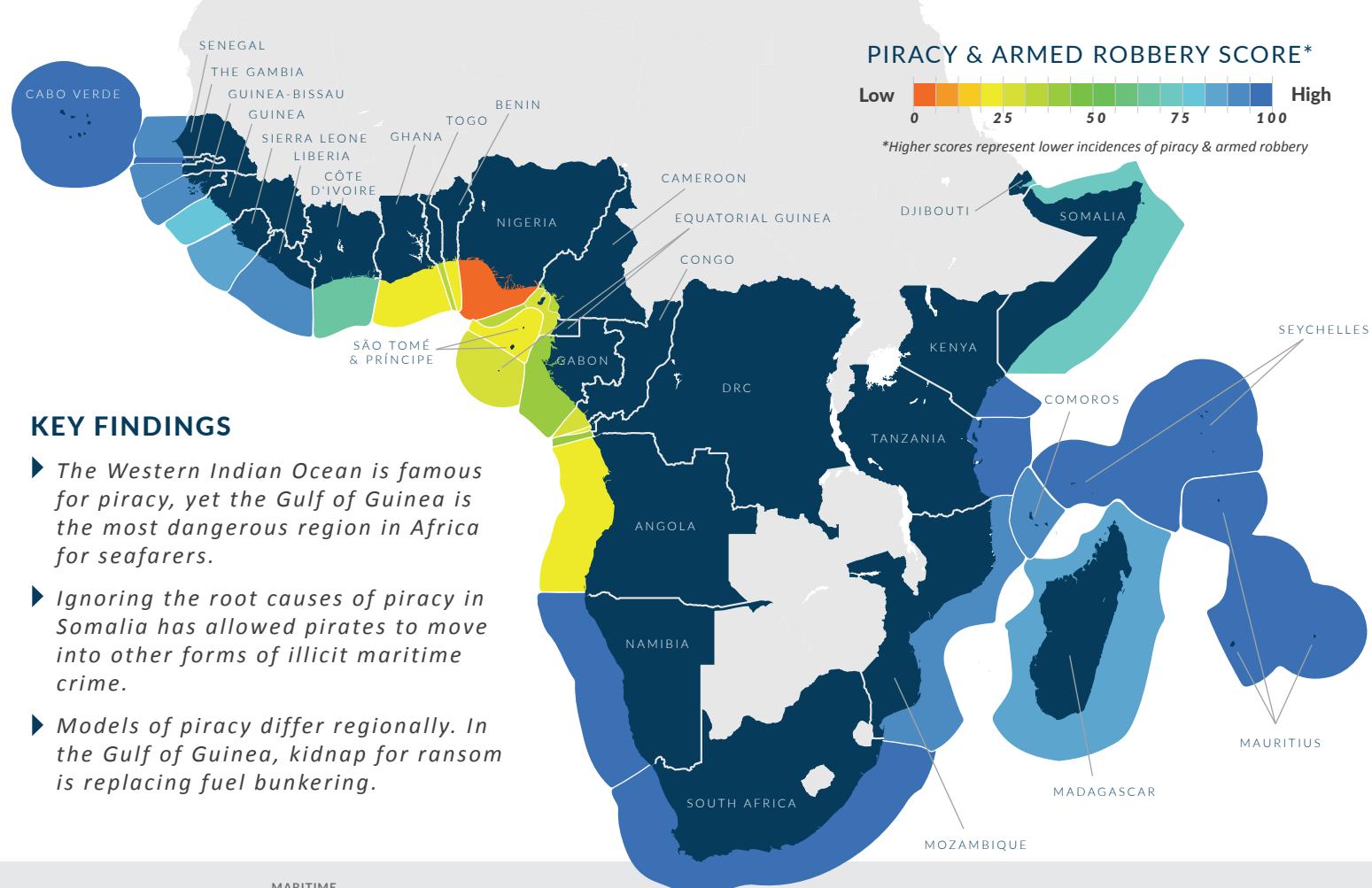
- ▶ **BLUE ECONOMY:** Countries with higher Fisheries scores also score higher in Blue Economy.
- ▶ **PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY:** Areas with less Piracy & Armed Robbery have stronger Fisheries.
- ▶ **RULE OF LAW:** Countries with strong judicial infrastructure and integrity have higher Fisheries scores.



PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY

SCORING FACTORS: Proximity to Incidents of Piracy & Armed Robbery in 2016

Maritime Piracy & Armed Robbery pose a clear challenge to effective maritime governance and security. These crimes threaten the safety of seafarers, disrupt global shipping, and may even fund violent political actors and transnational criminal networks.



KEY FINDINGS

- The Western Indian Ocean is famous for piracy, yet the Gulf of Guinea is the most dangerous region in Africa for seafarers.
- Ignoring the root causes of piracy in Somalia has allowed pirates to move into other forms of illicit maritime crime.
- Models of piracy differ regionally. In the Gulf of Guinea, kidnap for ransom is replacing fuel bunkering.

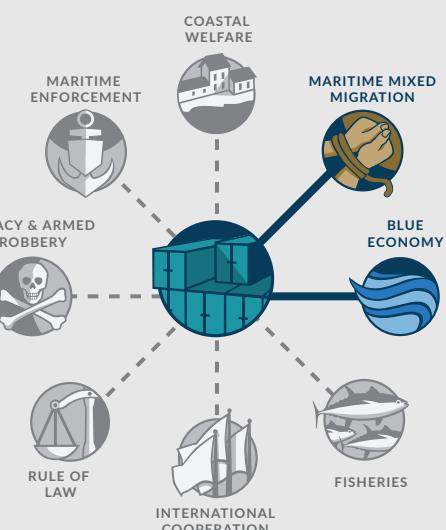
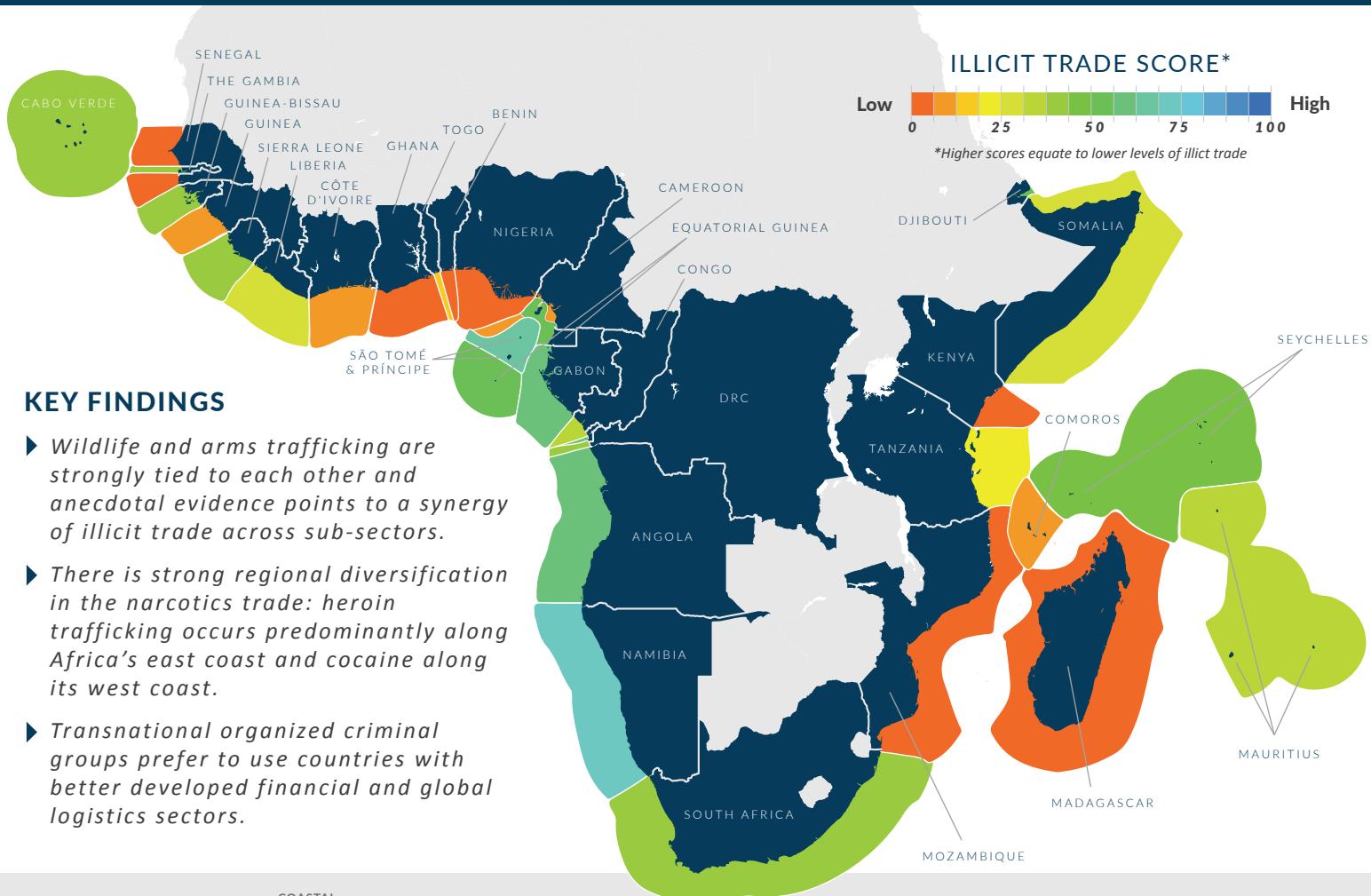


KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS

- **RULE OF LAW:** Strong Rule of Law is related to better scores in Piracy & Armed Robbery.
- **COASTAL WELFARE:** High scores in Coastal Welfare occur in countries with better Piracy & Armed Robbery scores.
- **FISHERIES:** Fisheries score highest in waters with better scores in Piracy & Armed Robbery.



Organized crime and the rise of illicit markets are intractable governance problems that threaten the sovereignty and stability of states in sub-Saharan Africa. Trafficking in wildlife, narcotics, weapons, and other contraband finances conflict and terrorism throughout the region.



KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS

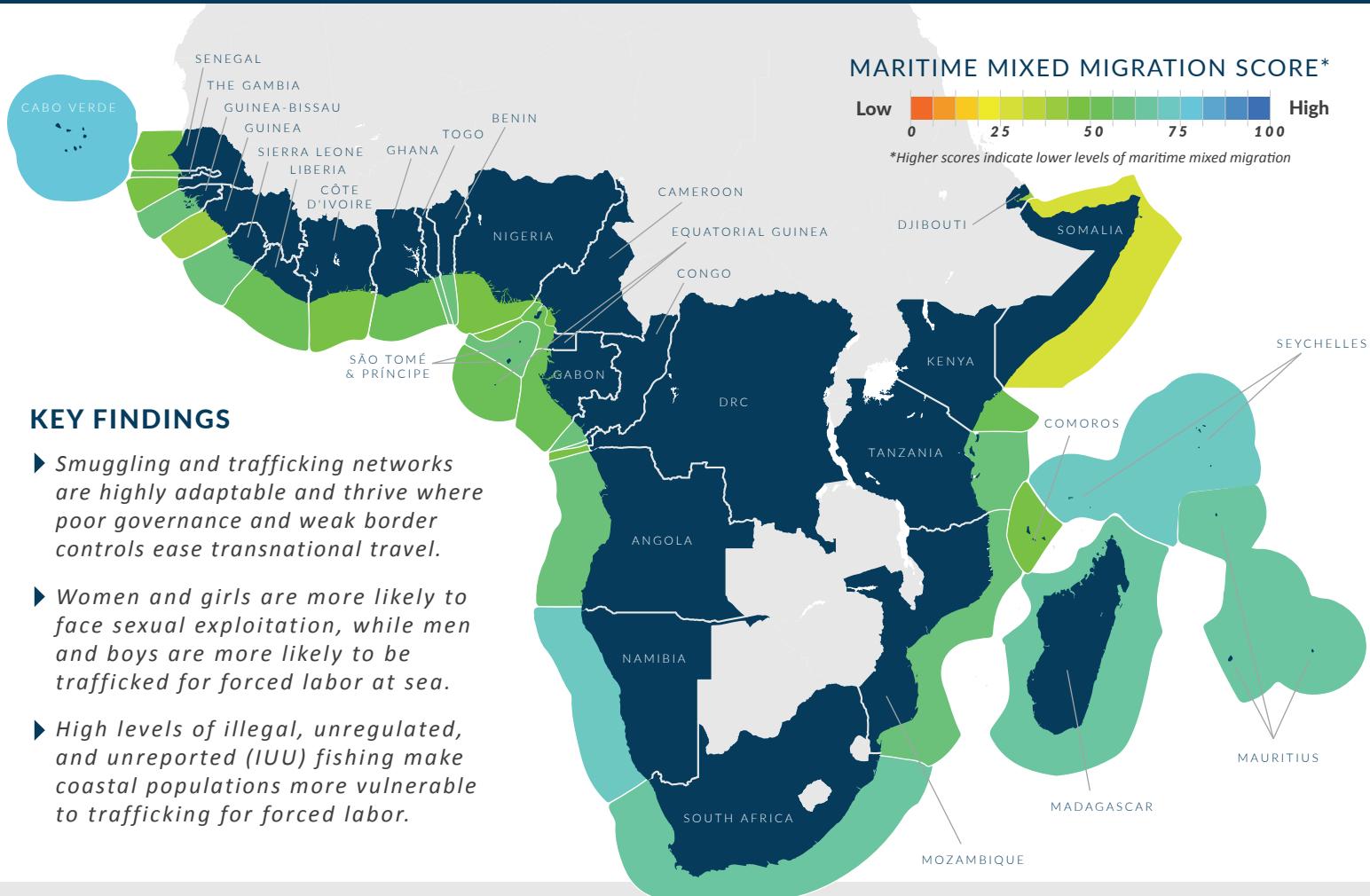
- MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION:** Low levels of maritime-based migration and human trafficking are related to higher scores in Illicit Trade.
- BLUE ECONOMY:** Countries with a high Blue Economy score also have a high score in Illicit Trade.



MARITIME MIXED MIGRATION

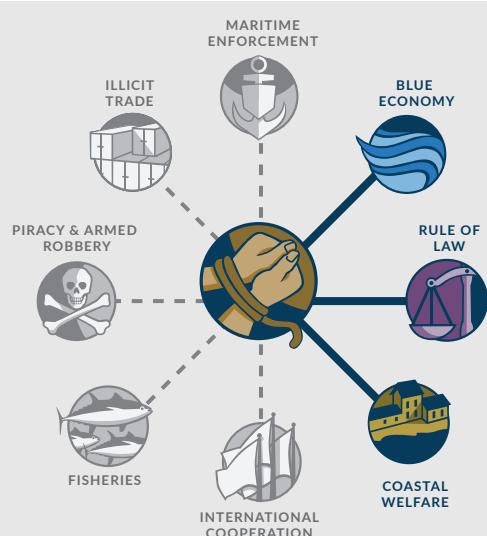
SCORING FACTORS: Forms & Degree of Human Trafficking & Smuggling, Legal Protections, Vulnerabilities

Maritime Mixed Migration includes human smuggling and trafficking, slavery, economic migration, asylum-seeking, and the illicit sex trade. Routes and networks shift with political and economic conditions, so addressing Maritime Mixed Migration requires regional coordination.



KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Smuggling and trafficking networks are highly adaptable and thrive where poor governance and weak border controls ease transnational travel.
- ▶ Women and girls are more likely to face sexual exploitation, while men and boys are more likely to be trafficked for forced labor at sea.
- ▶ High levels of illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing make coastal populations more vulnerable to trafficking for forced labor.



KEY LINKS to OTHER ISSUE AREAS

- ▶ **BLUE ECONOMY:** High Blue Economy scores are linked to higher Maritime Mixed Migration scores.
- ▶ **RULE OF LAW:** Countries with high Rule of Law scores have higher Maritime Mixed Migration scores.
- ▶ **COASTAL WELFARE:** High Coastal Welfare scores are linked to higher Maritime Mixed Migration scores.

COMMENTS

One Earth Future and the Stable Seas Maritime Security Index team value your feedback.
Please write any comments below and return this page to Curtis Bell (cbell@oneearthfuture.org).

STABLE SEAS

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one earth
F U T U R E
Peace Through Governance

*The Stable Seas Maritime Security Index is developed by programs of One Earth Future:
OEF Research, Oceans Beyond Piracy, and Secure Fisheries.*

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