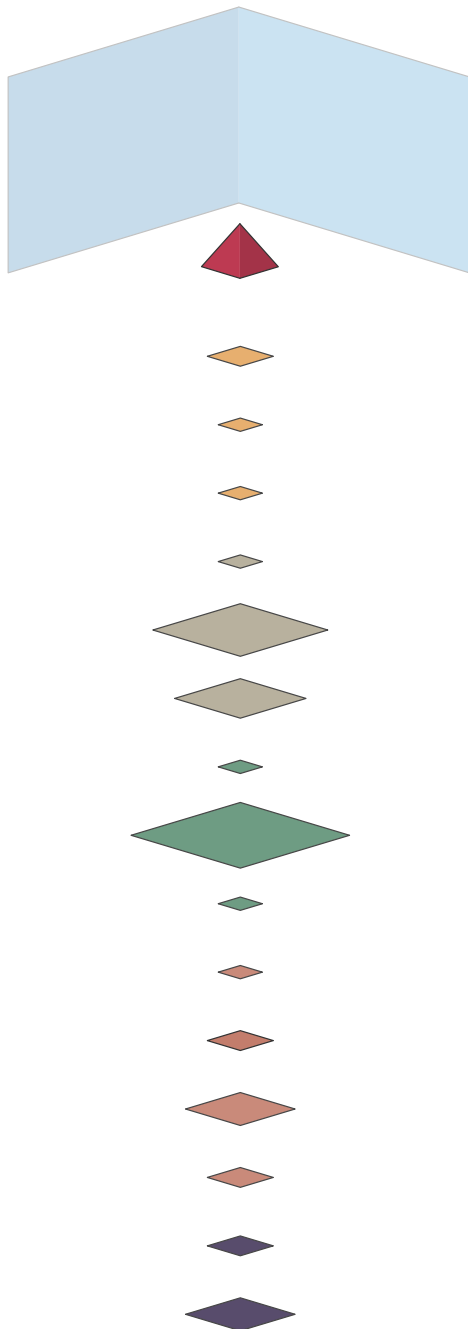


TUVALU



1.62

CRIMINALITY SCORE

193rd of 193 countries
14th of 14 Oceanian countries
3rd of 3 Polynesian countries



CRIMINAL MARKETS

1.93

HUMAN TRAFFICKING	1.50
HUMAN SMUGGLING	1.00
EXTORTION & PROTECTION RACKETEERING	1.00
ARMS TRAFFICKING	1.00
TRADE IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS	4.00
ILLICIT TRADE IN EXCISABLE GOODS	3.00
FLORA CRIMES	1.00
FAUNA CRIMES	5.00
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE CRIMES	1.00
HEROIN TRADE	1.00
COCAINE TRADE	1.50
CANNABIS TRADE	2.50
SYNTHETIC DRUG TRADE	1.50
CYBER-DEPENDENT CRIMES	1.50
FINANCIAL CRIMES	2.50



CRIMINAL ACTORS

1.30

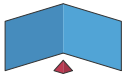
MAFIA-STYLE GROUPS	1.00
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	1.00
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	1.50
FOREIGN ACTORS	1.50
PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS	1.50



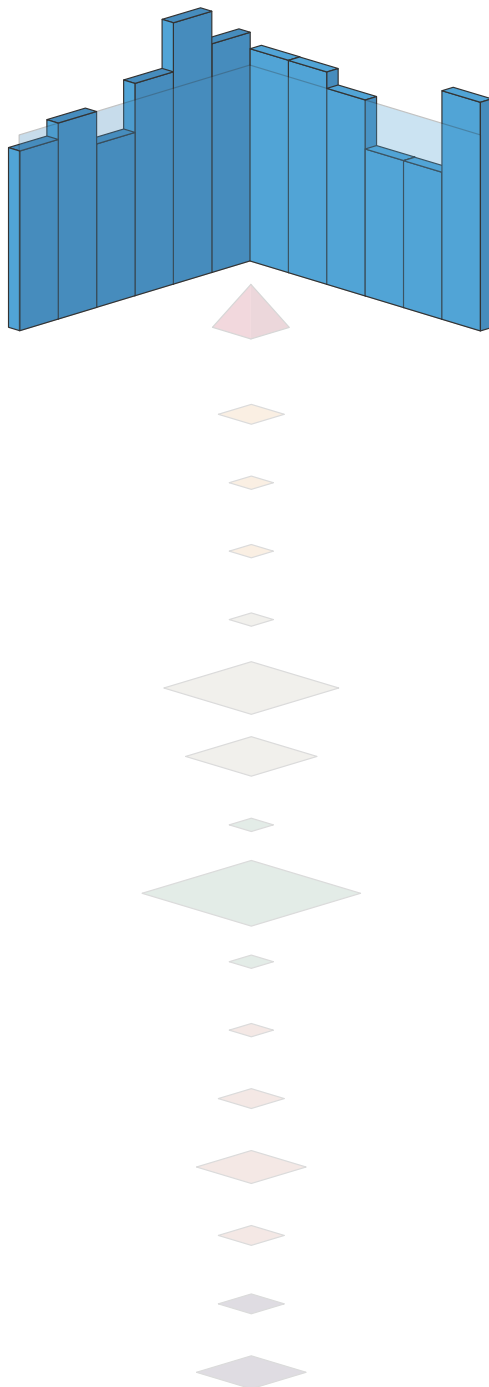
6.08

RESILIENCE SCORE





TUVALU



6.08

RESILIENCE SCORE

35th of 193 countries

3rd of 14 Oceanian countries

1st of 3 Polynesian countries

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	5.50
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	6.00
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	5.00
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	6.50
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	8.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT	7.00
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	6.50
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	6.50
ECONOMIC REGULATORY CAPACITY	6.00
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	4.50
PREVENTION	4.50
NON-STATE ACTORS	7.00



1.62

CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL MARKETS 1.93



CRIMINAL ACTORS 1.30



CRIMINALITY

CRIMINAL MARKETS

PEOPLE

There is no evidence of human trafficking or smuggling within Tuvalu's borders. Though Tuvalu's geographical location makes the country susceptible to regional risks, there have been no reported incidents of these crimes.

Despite having few economic opportunities, Tuvalu is an unlikely location for human smuggling because of its free education system and strong community support. Additionally, there is no information available regarding extortion or protection racketeering on the island.

TRADE

Tuvalu has no recorded evidence of arms trafficking within its borders. The country is not strategically attractive or economically permeable for organized crime groups involved in this type of crime. Illicit firearms are not known to be in circulation, and even the National Police do not carry firearms. The low crime rate in the country, combined with the low socio-economic status of many Tuvalu residents, makes it unlikely for an arms trafficking market to emerge.

There is no indication of a significant market for counterfeit goods within the country, nor any evidence of organized crime involvement in such trade. However, recently, there has been an increase in the trade of counterfeited goods in the Oceania region, with growing demand. Counterfeited items, such as clothes, pharmaceutical products, pesticides, and electronic gadgets, mostly originating from China, are becoming more prevalent in commercial and e-commerce trade in Tuvalu. Similarly, the illicit trade in excise goods, specifically tobacco products, have been also on the rise in the region and in the country, due to the increasing levels of excise taxes.

ENVIRONMENT

The market for flora crimes in Tuvalu is nonexistent, though the small size of the islands and limited forest make them more vulnerable to the importation of illegally harvested timber. The main form of fauna crime committed in the country is illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, with revenue from tuna fishing contributing almost half of the government's revenue. Like several other Pacific Islands, Tuvalu benefits from permanent bilateral ship rider agreements with the US Coast Guard, allowing Tuvaluan law enforcement to expand their reach of monitoring and control for a limited number of days annually. Tuvalu has

declared less than 1% of its exclusive economic zone as a marine protected area.

There is no evidence of a nonrenewable resource crimes market in Tuvalu, and the country has recently withdrawn support for deep-sea mining activities.

DRUGS

The prevalence of heroin and cocaine trade in Tuvalu is low. However, the country is vulnerable to being a stopover on the Latin America-Oceania drug highway due to its proximity to the high-value market of Australia. Despite this, Tuvalu is not an attractive destination market for drug traffickers due to low drug consumption and purchasing power.

Tuvalu likely has a small illicit market for cannabis, with local production meeting local demand at a relatively low price. There is no evidence of organized crime involvement in Tuvalu's cannabis trade, and the size and value of the market are believed to be much smaller than in neighbouring countries. Tuvalu is not linked to the synthetic drug trade. However, as the South Pacific region is reportedly on a global trafficking route for methamphetamines, there is a possibility that Tuvalu has a transit market for synthetic drugs, albeit limited.

CYBER-DEPENDENT CRIMES

In recent years, Tuvalu has been accelerating its digitization process with the goal of becoming the world's first paperless society. Most of the population owns mobile phones, and the government is working to provide access to more advanced internet technologies. Despite the progress made, there have been no significant cases of cyber-dependent crimes in Tuvalu. Economic factors suggest that Tuvalu will remain a low-value target for organized crime in the cyber realm.

FINANCIAL CRIMES

Tuvaluans are vulnerable to exploitation by criminals seeking to use their country as a pathway to Australian and New Zealand markets. While there is no evidence of financial crimes in Tuvalu, the country remains vulnerable to exploitation due to its geographic location and the presence of wealthy Australians seeking to minimize their taxes. Aside from these cases, there is no evidence of widespread financial fraud, embezzlement, or misuse of funds in Tuvalu.

CRIMINAL ACTORS

There is no evidence of mafia-style groups or organized crime in Tuvalu, with the exception of the foreign-led illegal fishing trade. Despite Tuvalu's criminal market being

dominated by foreign actors, it is relatively small compared to that of other nations.

State-embedded actors as well as private sector actors involved in any criminal markets and/or corrupt schemes are limited in number. Overall, Tuvalu appears to be at a lower risk of organized crime and criminal networks.

RESILIENCE

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Tuvalu's government has not been actively involved in anti-organized crime efforts since it is not a prevalent issue in the country. The government's focus is on more pressing needs such as economic issues and climate change. While Tuvalu's position against child labour and human trafficking has improved since 2013, child labour is still tolerated in practice. The country has shown commitment to tackling human smuggling but has failed to communicate strong opposition to IUU fishing, which is the primary form of organized crime prevalent in its neighbourhood. Nevertheless, there are no indications of government involvement with organized crime. Tuvalu's political system is relatively volatile, with frequent votes of no-confidence against the prime minister, which has contributed to low trust in the government. Despite this, Tuvalu is generally regarded as a free country. While Tuvalu has anti-corruption instruments in place, the government has few coordinated measures targeting corruption. As a preventive measure against it, Tuvalu is part of an initiative led by New Zealand in cooperation with the UN to strengthen anti-corruption laws in the Pacific Island region.

Tuvalu has a positive record of information-sharing and international cooperation as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and partner to bilateral agreements with the US. The country has committed to regional platforms such as the Pacific Islands Forum and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering. However, its commitment to international treaties on transnational organized crime and related issues is patchy, as it has not signed/ratified/acceded to several key conventions. Tuvalu has national legislation criminalizing several acts related to transnational organized crime, including human smuggling, human trafficking, and piracy. IUU fishing is criminalized with dedicated legislation and New Zealand has offered support to address illegal tuna fishing. The country's size and community-based approach to governance make its laws and policies considered appropriate.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY

Tuvalu has an independent judiciary system consisting of island courts, magistrates' courts, a High Court, a Court of Appeal, and the UK-based Privy Council. The government generally respects judicial independence and impartiality. The Tuvalu prison system comprises one jail on the Fongafale islet in Funafuti, which reportedly houses between eight and 12 inmates at any given time. The conditions in the prison and detention centre do not raise concerns regarding living conditions or inmate abuse, and impunity is not an issue in the country.

Tuvalu's law enforcement response is pragmatic and consistent with the location, community, and economic resources available. The country has no military force, but it has a National Police Force consisting of a Maritime Surveillance Unit, Customs, Prisons, and Immigration units. Tuvalu is a member of various transpacific island law enforcement forces and initiatives created to combat transnational organized crime. With the help of Australia, Tuvalu defends its territorial integrity against IUU fishing and smuggling. In 2021, the country began its journey towards digital resilience with the help of the Oceania Cyber Security Centre in Melbourne. This, along with other international programmes, will provide Tuvalu with the capacity to resist cyber-infiltration and improve its cybersecurity.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Tuvalu appears to be committed to anti-money laundering measures, with no major problems reported. Although Tuvalu is compliant with independent recommendations, it has not yet undergone a Mutual Evaluation Report and has not made efforts to become a full member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). However, the APG has welcomed Tuvalu's efforts to strengthen its anti-money laundering system, including establishing a Transaction Tracking Unit within the Tuvalu National Police Force. Tuvalu plans to install a domestic Financial Intelligence Unit, and cooperation with the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit has been strengthened to devise a possible

organizational structure and job descriptions. Tuvalu recognizes the importance of developing an effective supervisory framework for the banking sector, as it does not have a central bank and uses the Australian dollar as its currency.

Tuvalu's economy is dependent on external factors such as remittance payments, fishing licenses, and small-scale exports. The country's GDP is mostly service-based and it has received bilateral aid from Australia and New Zealand. Tuvalu's GDP growth is one of the strongest among the South Pacific island states, and it can generally be seen as a middle to upper-middle-income country. There are no specific sectors captured by organized crime or involved in any economic market regulation activities. Tuvalu's economy was not severely affected by the pandemic as its fishing revenues and donor grants allowed the country to avoid a recession. However, its vulnerability to the effects of climate change, domination by the public sector, and narrow revenue base present economic challenges for the country.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Tuvalu has legislation in place to protect victims of violent crimes, including provisions for compensation and legal representation. However, while there are child protection victim services, adult protection services, particularly for women, remain inadequate. As of 2022, Tuvalu may not be adequately equipped to support crime victims should this become a larger issue in the future. In terms of prevention, Tuvalu lacks specific action plans or national frameworks for organized crime prevention.

NGOs are free to operate in Tuvalu and focus on areas such as good governance, community support, and environmental work. However, there is no information available regarding NGOs that specifically address organized crime-related issues. Overall, Tuvalu is considered to be a free country, but government control over the sole radio and television station limits the expression of independent views.

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