



African Human Rights Index



African Human Rights Index

AHRI

African Human Rights Atlas

The Continental Visual Companion
to the AHRI Annual Report

AHRI 2025/2026 • Founding Edition • Six Countries, Three Dimensions, One Diagnosis

El-Hak Foundation for Freedom of Expression & Human Rights

How This Atlas Is Organized

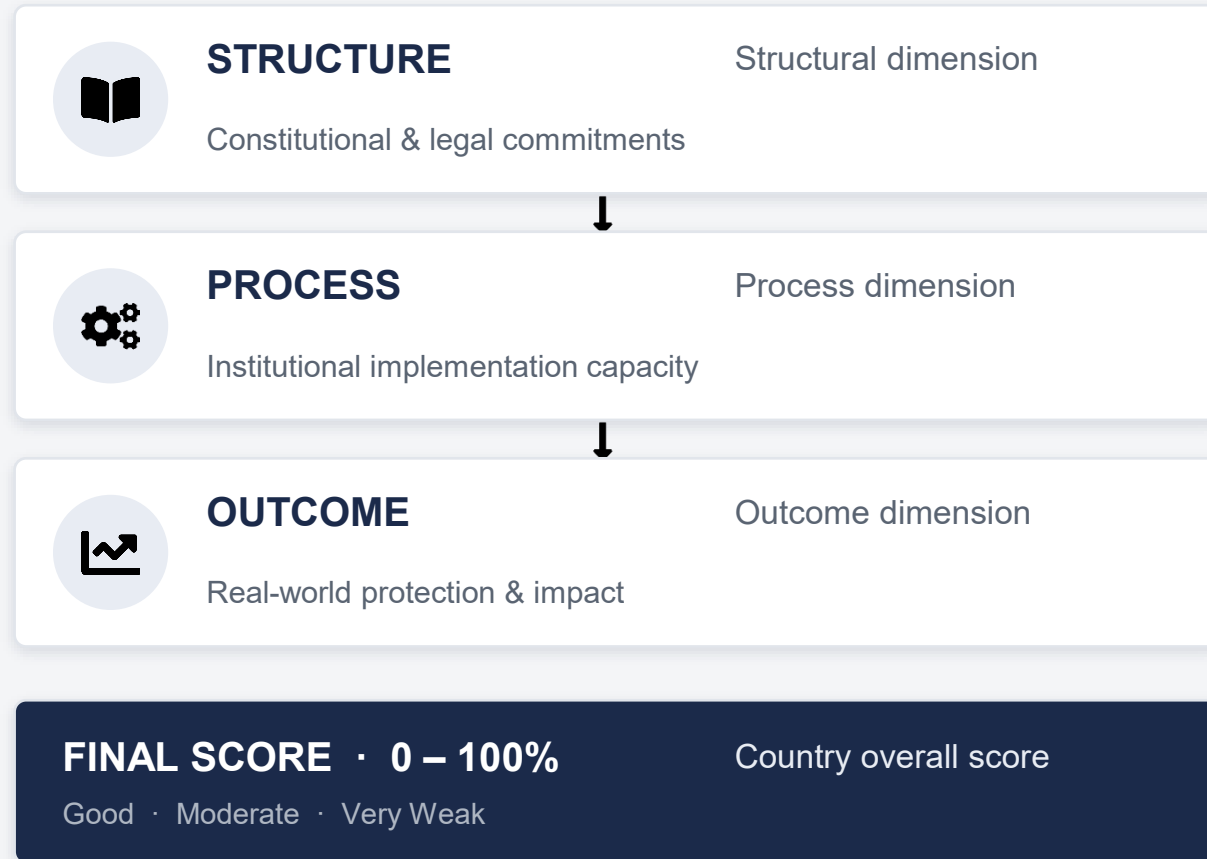
How this Atlas is organised

01	How to Read the Index	How to read the Index	08	ADC Diagnostic Profiles	Country diagnosis (ADC)
02	Africa at a Glance	Africa at a glance	09	Human Rights Risk Map	Human-rights risk map
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How to Read the Index

Three Dimensions, One Score



ADC Diagnostic Codes

A composite diagnostic pattern per country, from paper compliance to structural collapse



Africa at a Glance

The founding edition of the African Human Rights Index (AHRI) covers six countries representing three African regions, across three analytical dimensions and six thematic domains.



Mauritius

Highest Score — 63.29%

Highest overall score



Ethiopia

Largest Implementation Gap — 131.9 pts

Largest implementation gap



Eswatini

Weakest Freedom of Assembly — 10.0

Weakest freedom of assembly



Sierra Leone

Largest Structural Score — 190/202

Highest structural score

Regional Footprint

West Africa (55.0%)

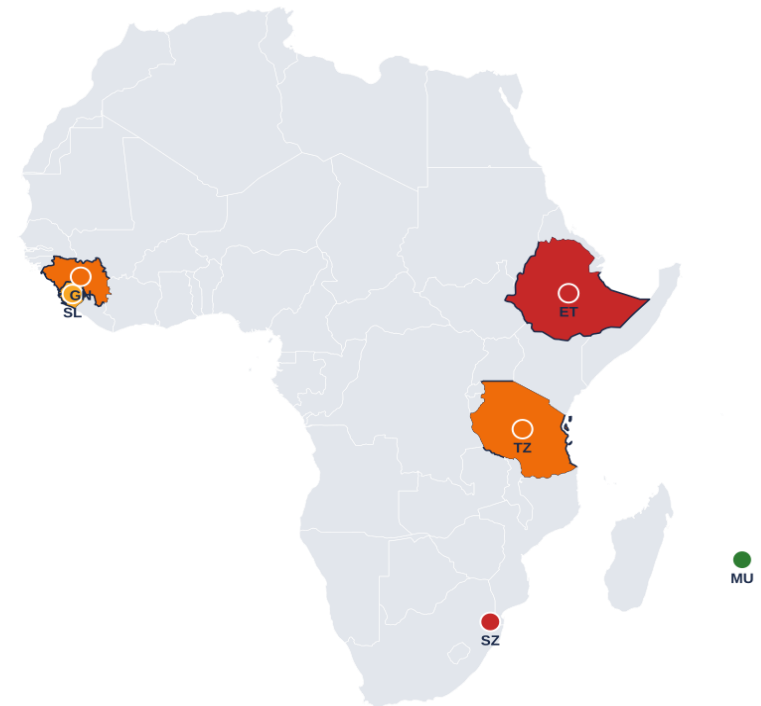
Sierra Leone · Guinea

East Africa (50.6%)

Mauritius · Ethiopia · Tanzania

Southern Africa (37.8%)

Eswatini

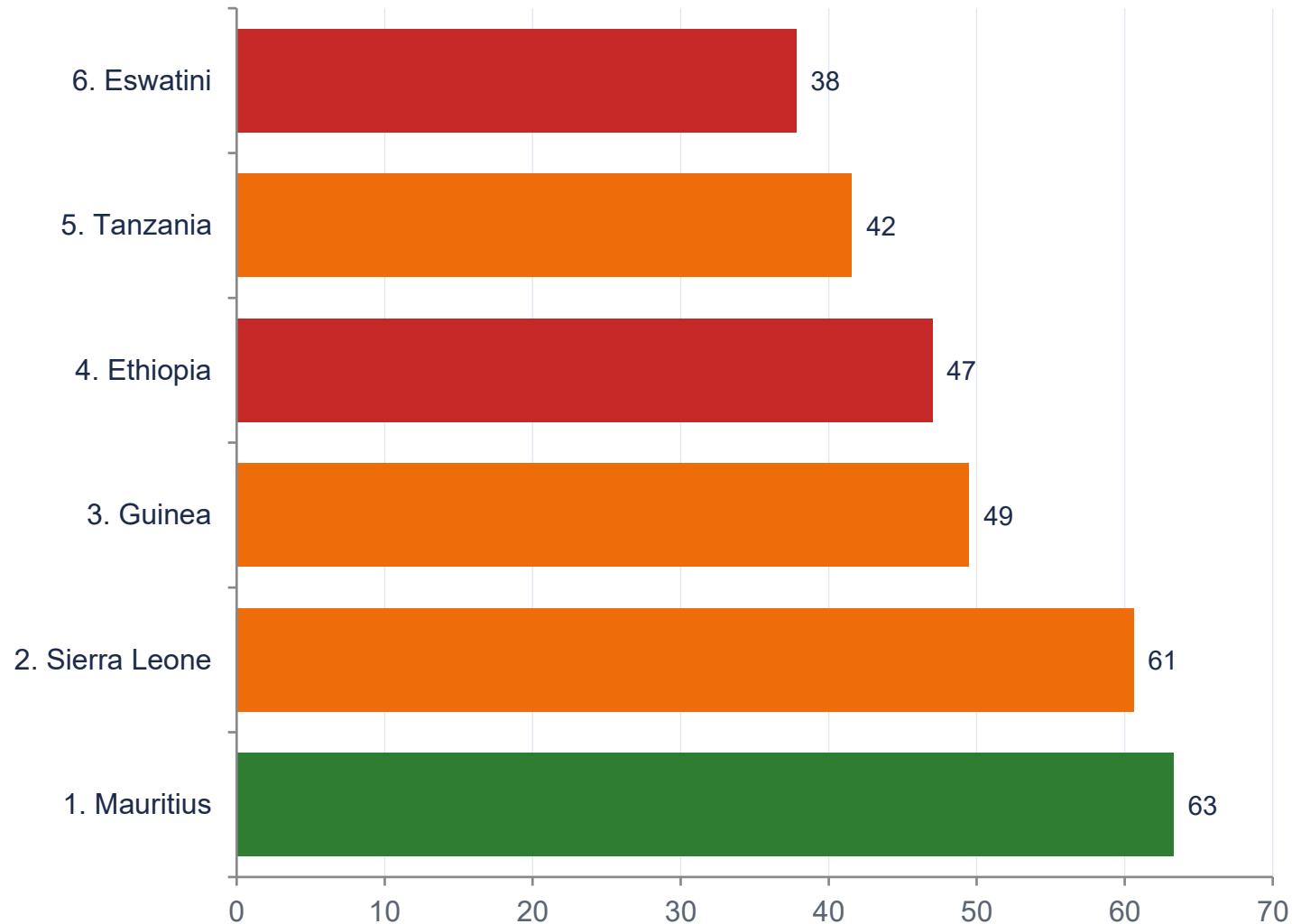


The Six Study Countries



Continental Ranking

Continental ranking of the six countries



Classification Breakdown

1

Good

16.7% of countries studied

1

Moderate

16.7% of countries studied

4

Very Weak

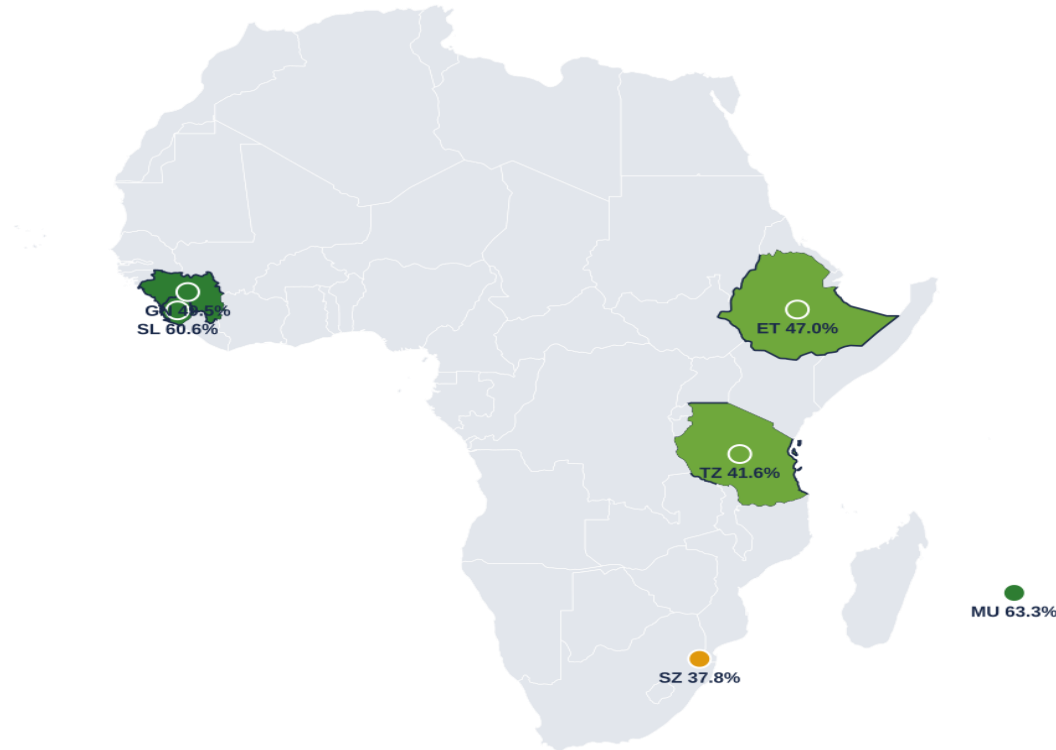
66.7% of countries studied

Four of six states (66.7%) were rated “Very Weak,” reflecting the dominance of rights-weakness patterns within the sample despite varied legal frameworks.

Continental Ranking

Continental ranking of the six countries

AHRI Overall Score by Country (%)



Ranking

1	Mauritius	63.29%
2	Sierra Leone	60.60%
3	Guinea	49.49%
4	Ethiopia	47.00%
5	Tanzania	41.57%
6	Eswatini	37.80%

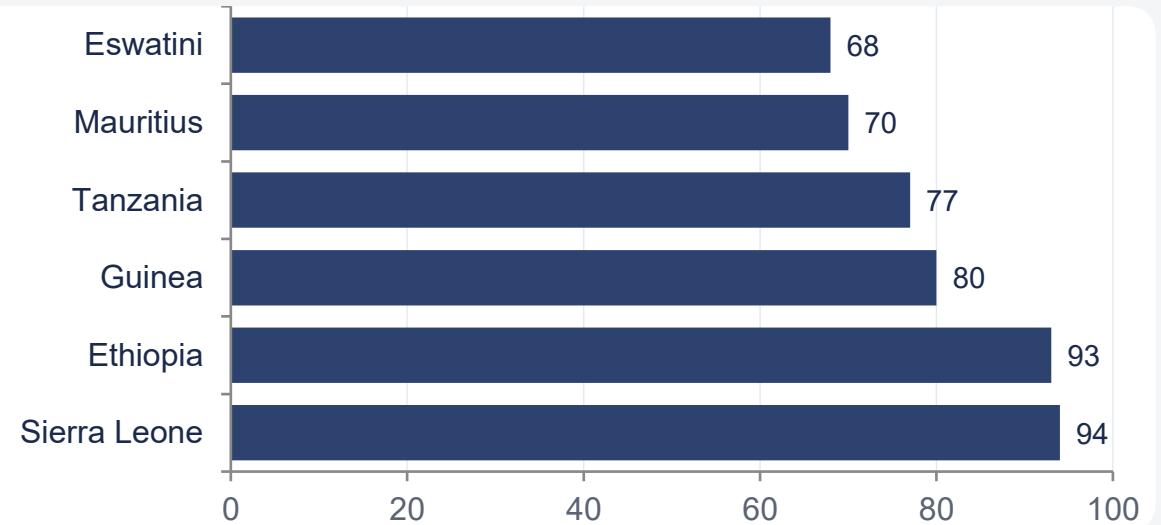
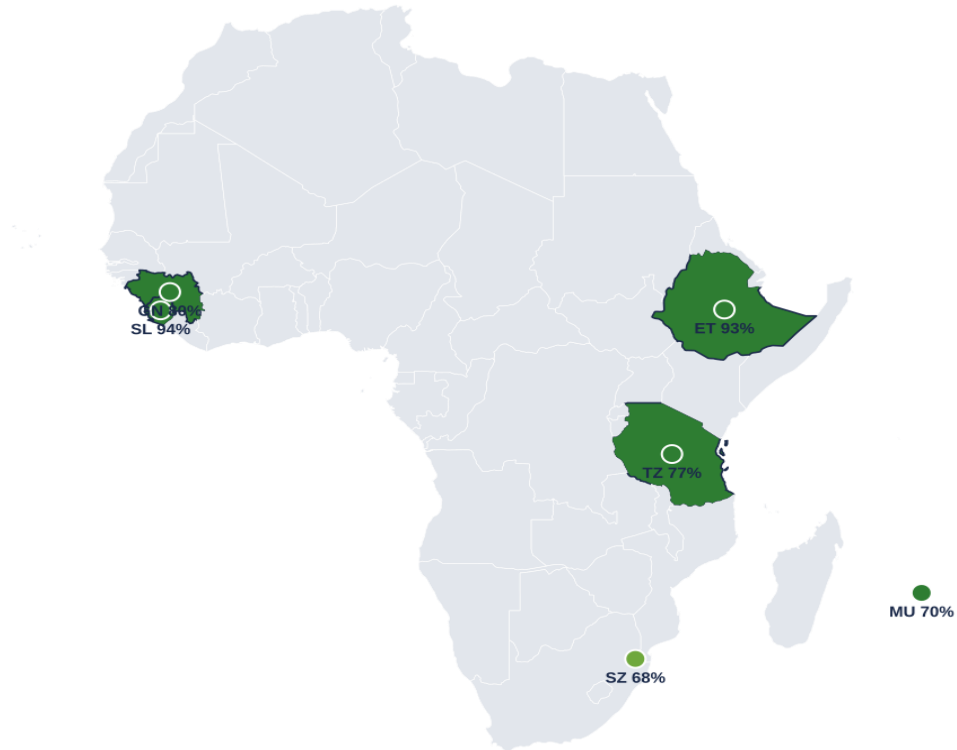
Four of six states were rated “Very Weak,” reflecting the dominance of rights-weakness patterns within the sample.



Structural Dimension

Structural dimension — strength of the legal and constitutional framework

Structural Score (% of Maximum)



The results show that legal-framework strength does not necessarily track the quality of the rights situation. Sierra Leone and Ethiopia ranked first and second structurally, yet this did not carry into field outcomes given the wide legislation–implementation gap. Mauritius, by contrast, posted only the fifth-highest structural score yet achieved the best overall performance thanks to its real conversion of legal commitments.

190 / 202

Highest structural score — Sierra Leone (94%)

138 / 202

Lowest structural score — Eswatini (68%)

Human Rights Heat Map

Rights heat matrix across the six domains

Country / domain	Civil & political rights	Freedom of expression	Assembly & association	Access to justice & rule of law	Economic & social rights	Rights of vulnerable groups
Mauritius	103.3	43.3	64.2	58.5	78.2	57.2
Sierra Leone	72.5	89.4	60.0	55.0	63.5	58.3
Guinea	89.2	43.2	35.6	33.8	56.4	63.0
Ethiopia	58.4	49.6	35.0	36.6	58.4	69.2
Tanzania	45.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	55.0	65.0
Eswatini	15.0	20.0	10.0	15.0	35.0	30.0

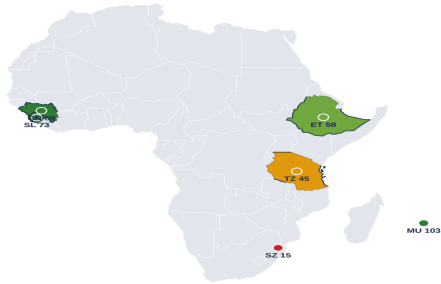


This matrix offers a rapid visual read of rights hot-spots across the six domains: green tones indicate higher levels of protection, while red and orange expose domains in urgent need of reform.

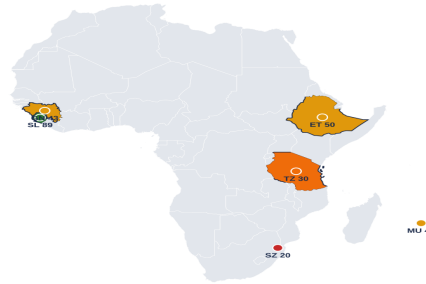
Human Rights Domain Maps

Maps of the six rights domains across the six countries

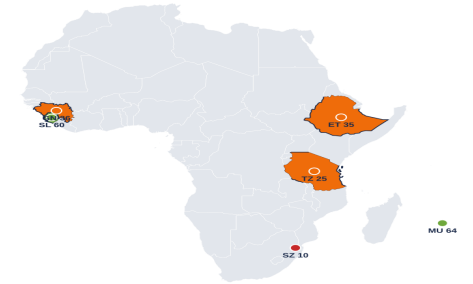
Civil & political rights



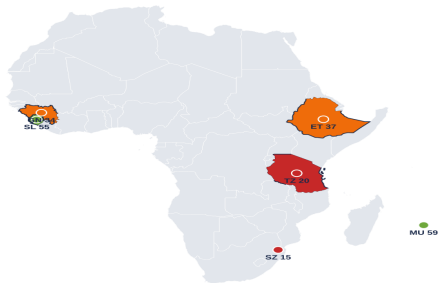
Freedom of expression



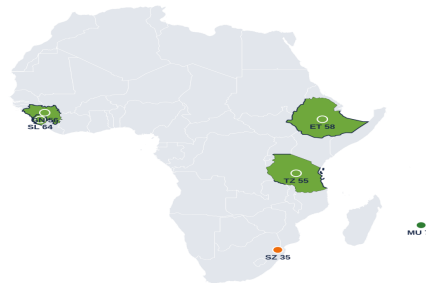
Assembly & association



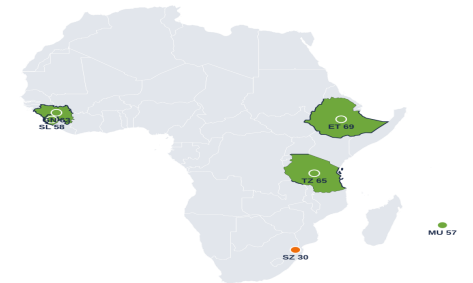
Access to justice & rule of law



Economic & social rights



Rights of vulnerable groups



≥ 70 Very high

55–69 Good

40–54 Medium

25–39 Weak

< 25 Critical

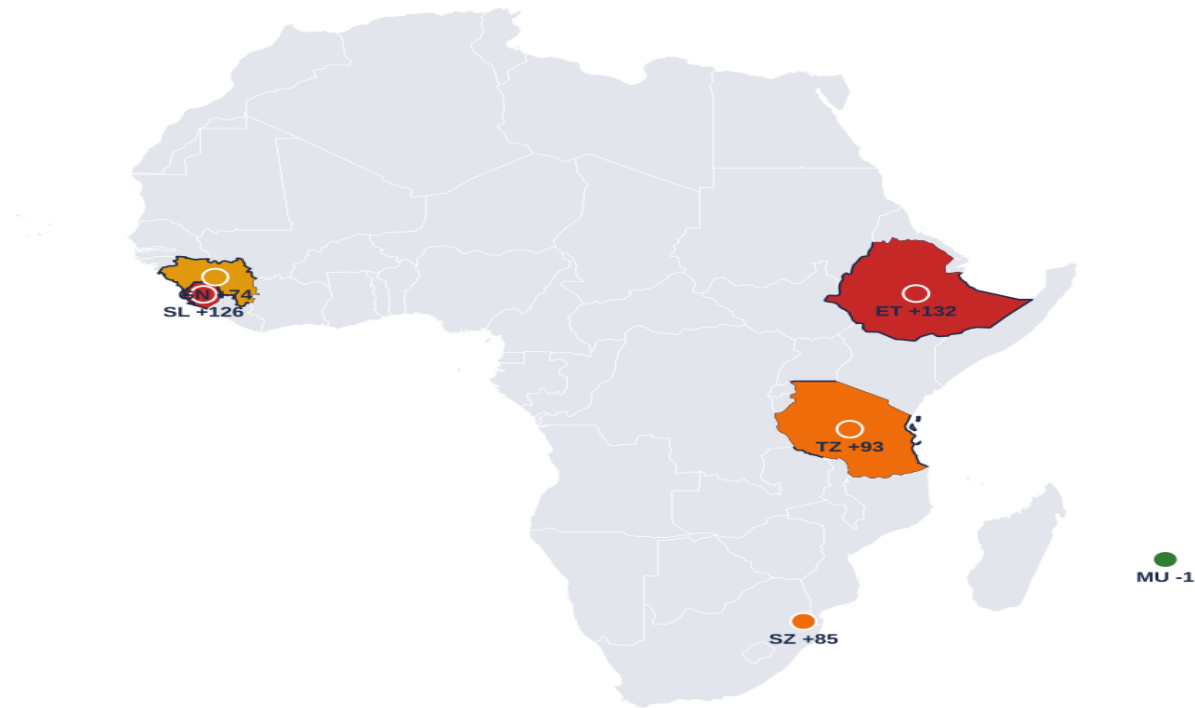
These maps offer a rapid visual read of how rights performance is distributed geographically across the six domains: green tones indicate stronger protection, while red and orange expose domains in urgent need of reform.



Implementation Gap

The gap between legal commitment and real implementation

Implementation Gap by Country (points)



Gap ranking (higher = deeper crisis)

Ethiopia

131.9 pts

Critical gap

Sierra Leone

125.5 pts

Critical gap

Tanzania

92.5 pts

Concerning gap

Eswatini

85.0 pts

Concerning gap

Guinea

73.8 pts

Concerning gap

Mauritius

-0.8 pts

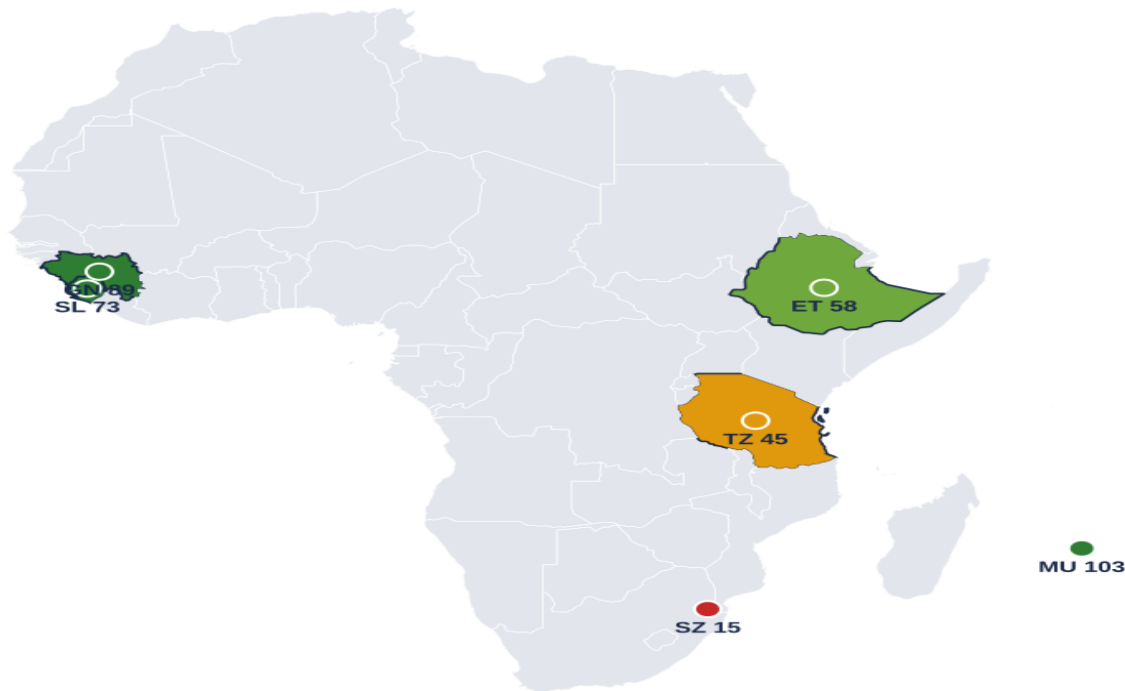
Moderate gap



Civil & Political Rights

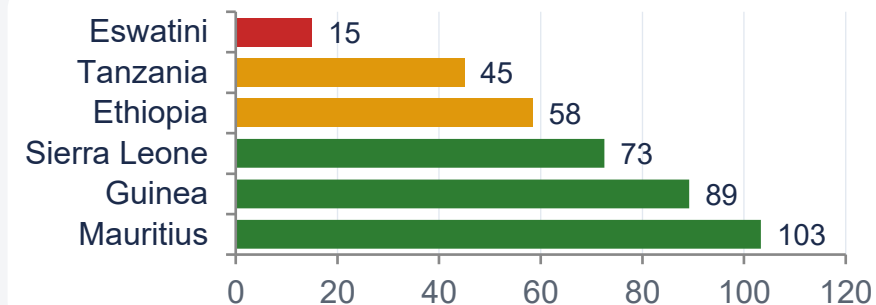
Civil & political rights

Civil & Political Rights — Score by Country

*Continental average: 63.9*

Comment

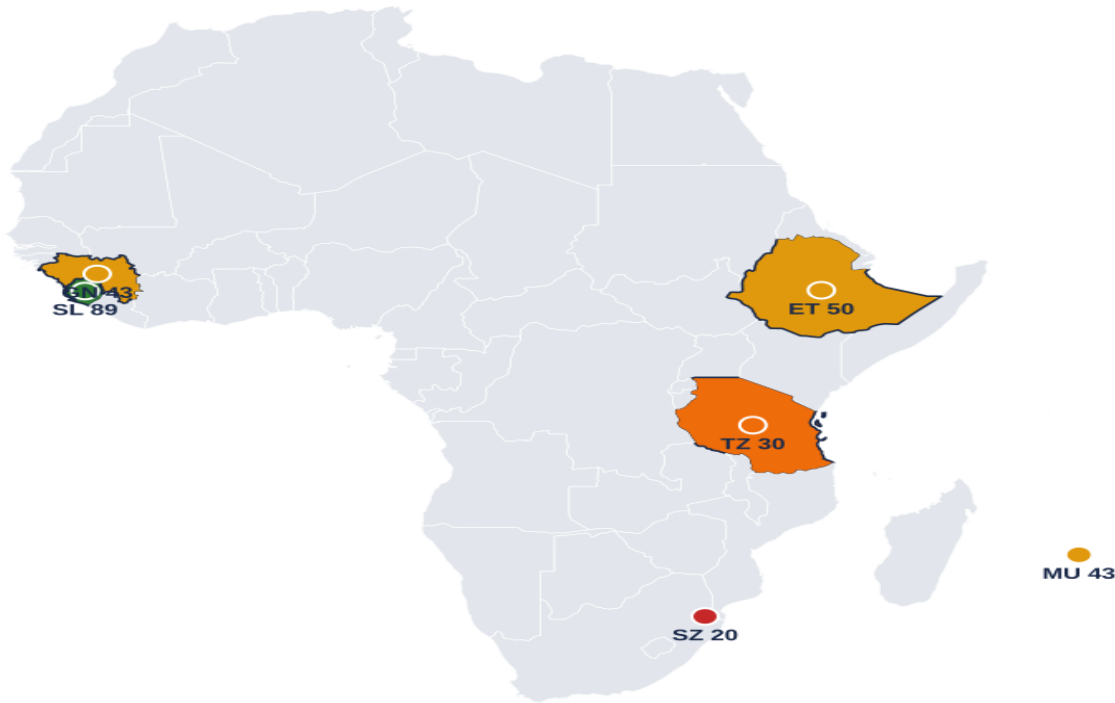
Mauritius leads this domain by a clear margin while Eswatini records the lowest level — a sharp contrast between the sample's most coherent institutional model and its most fragile.

**Mauritius 103.3****Eswatini 15.0**

Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression

Freedom of Expression — Score by Country

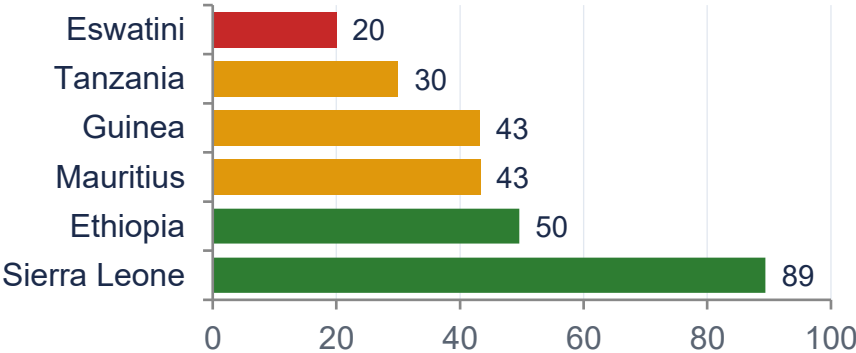


Continental average: 45.9



Comment

Freedom of expression is among the most divergent domains: Sierra Leone leads thanks to the decriminalisation of defamation, while Eswatini and Tanzania record the lowest levels amid mounting



Sierra Leone 89.4

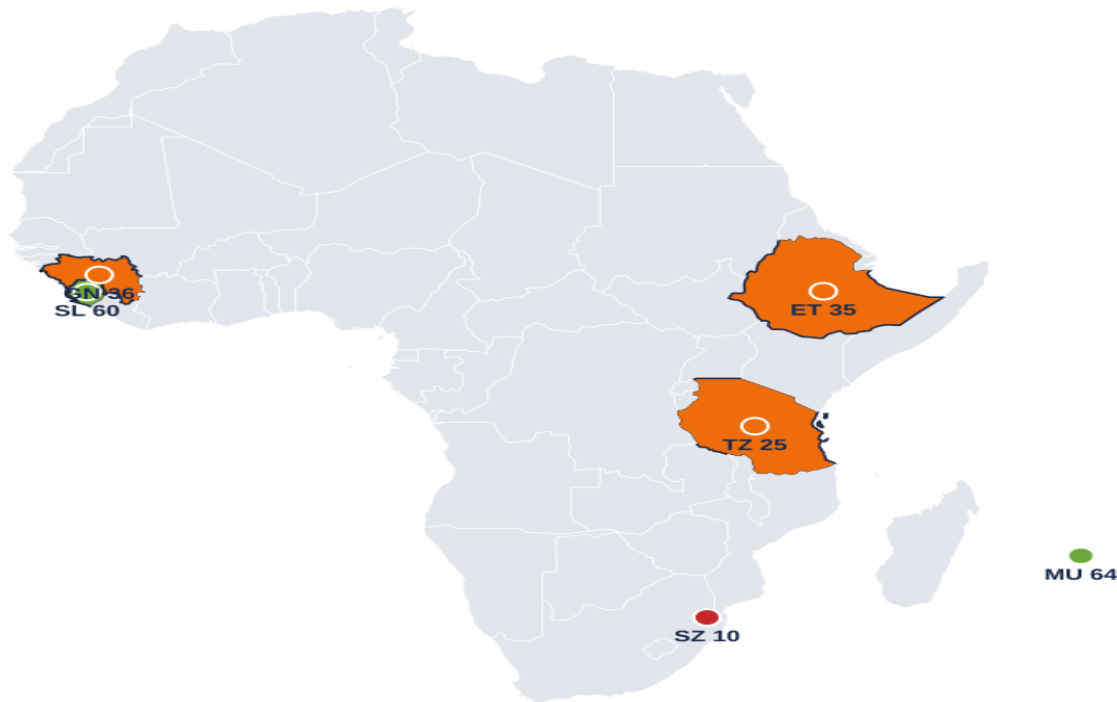
Eswatini 20.0



Freedom of Assembly & Association

Assembly & association

Freedom of Assembly & Association — Score by Country

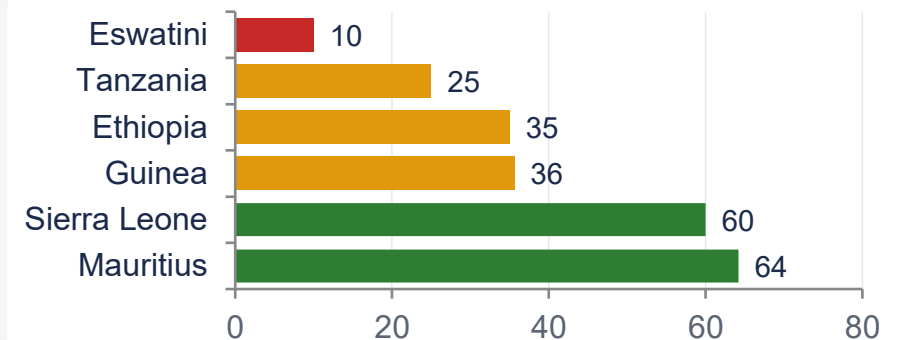


Continental average: 38.3



Comment

This domain records the weakest overall performance of the six; Eswatini sits at the bottom (10.0) amid severe restrictions on political organisation and peaceful assembly.



Mauritius 64.2

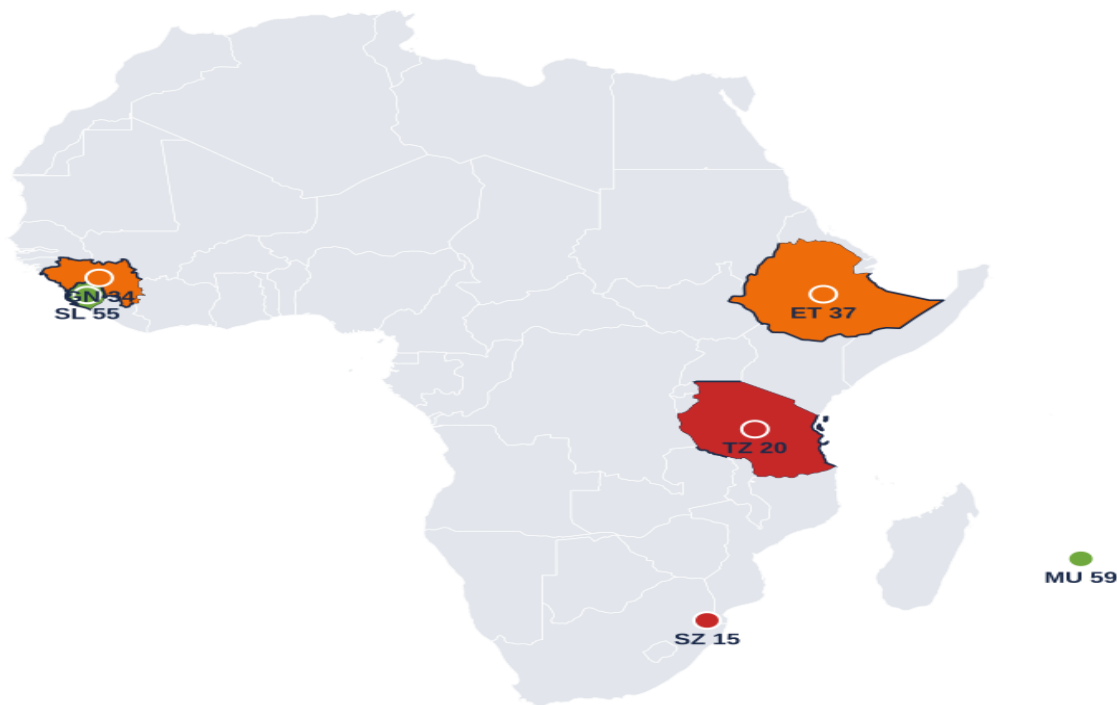
Eswatini 10.0



Access to Justice & Rule of Law

Access to justice & rule of law

Access to Justice & Rule of Law — Score by Country

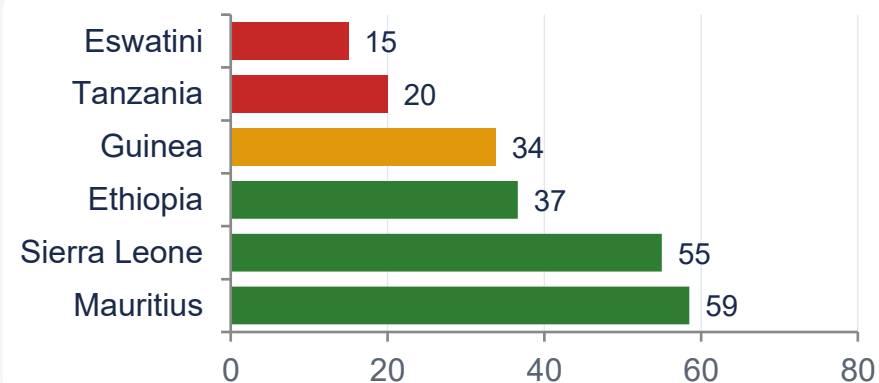


Continental average: 36.5



Comment

Access to justice and the rule of law are the weakest link in most states, with a sharp spread between Mauritius (58.5) and Tanzania and Eswatini (20.0 and



Mauritius 58.5

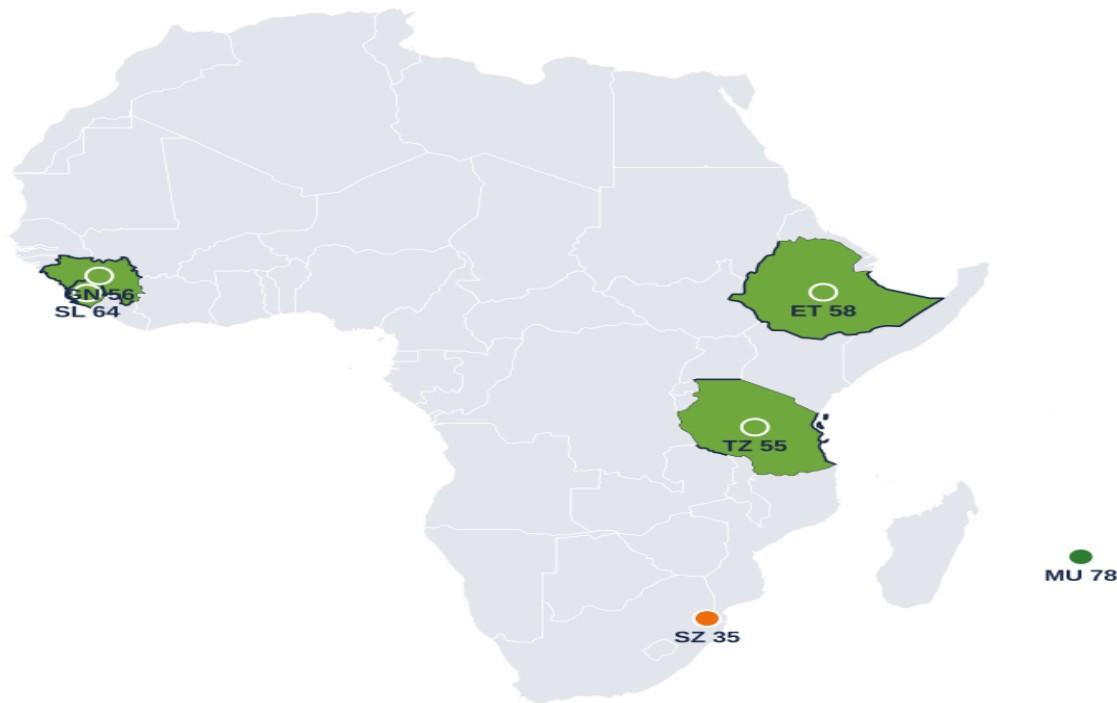
Eswatini 15.0



Economic & Social Rights

Economic & social rights

Economic & Social Rights — Score by Country

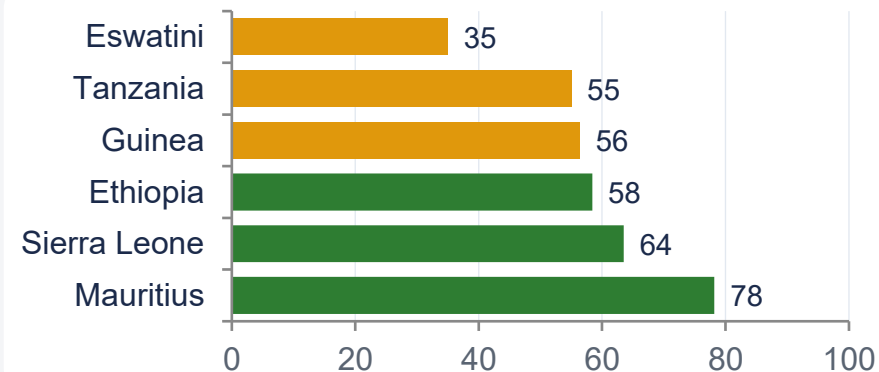


Continental average: 57.8



Comment

A comparatively balanced domain: most states hold medium-to-high levels, with the exception of Eswatini, which records the lowest score (35.0).



Mauritius 78.2

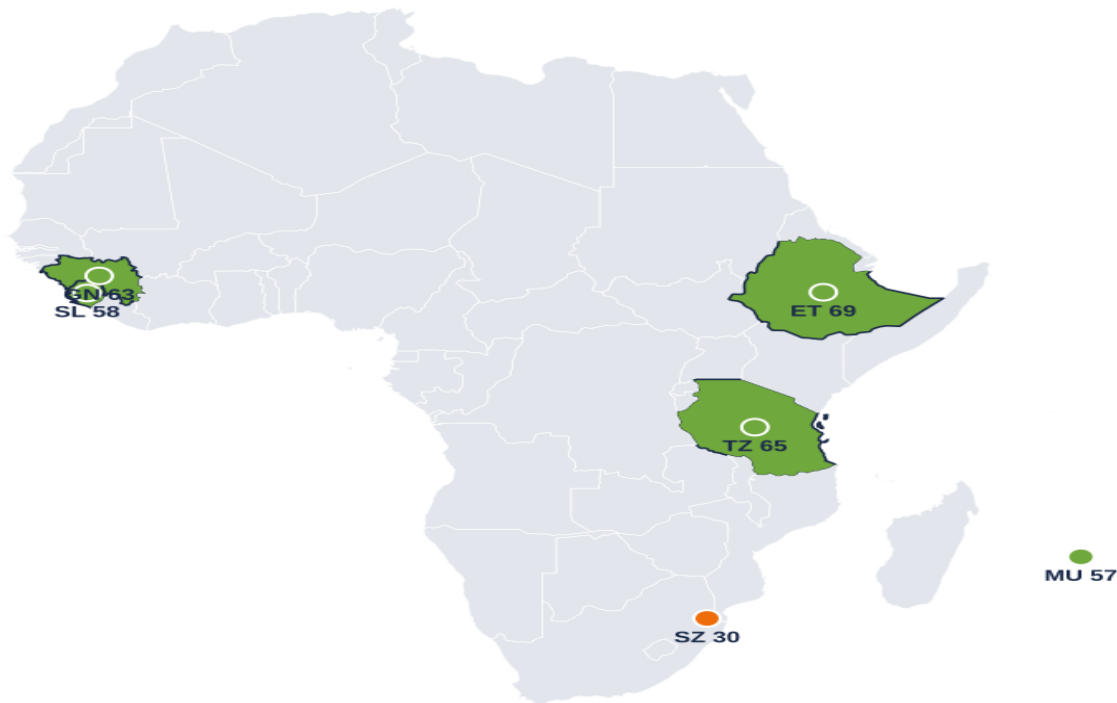
Eswatini 35.0



Rights of Vulnerable Groups

Rights of vulnerable groups

Rights of Vulnerable Groups — Score by Country

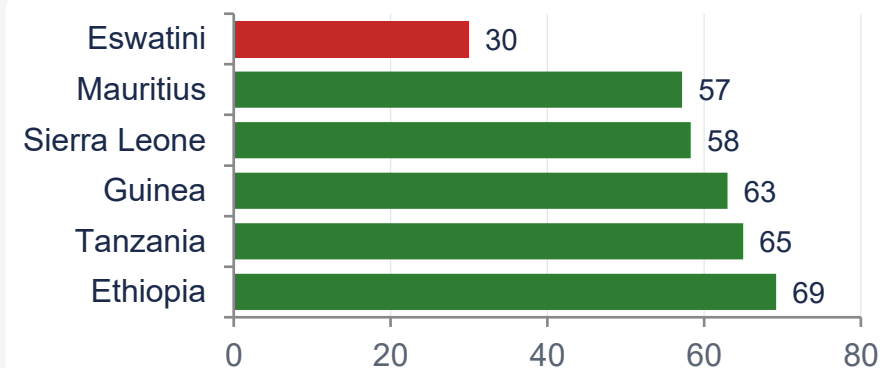


Continental average: 57.1



Comment

Rights of vulnerable groups show moderate variation; Ethiopia records the highest performance (69.2) while Eswatini records the lowest (30.0).



Ethiopia 69.2

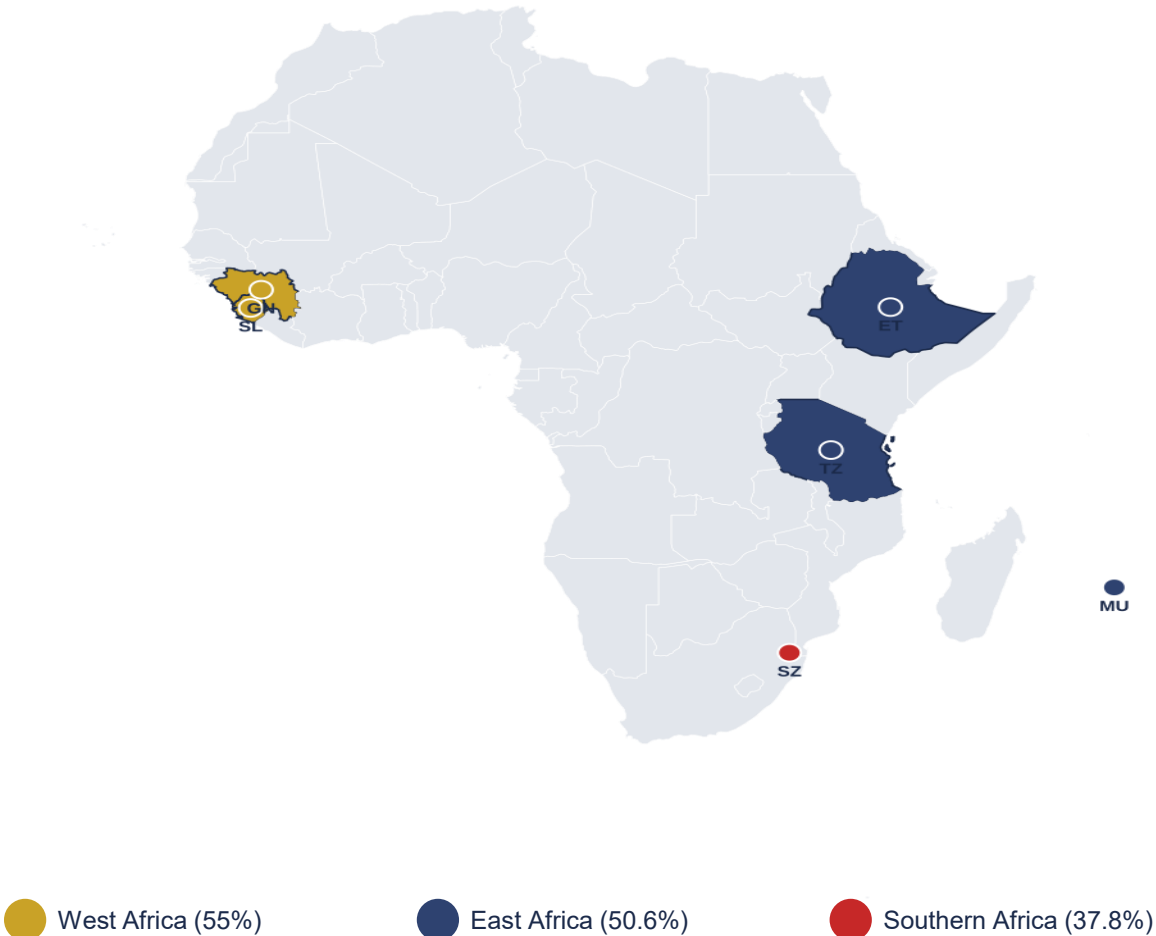
Eswatini 30.0



Regional Patterns

Regional patterns: West, East, and Southern Africa

Countries by Region

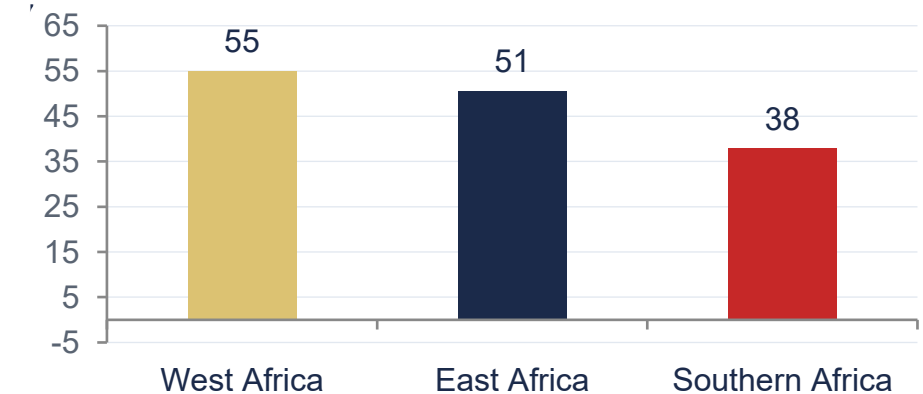


Analytical reading

West Africa recorded the highest average performance (55.0%), followed by East Africa (50.6%), with Southern Africa last (37.8%) owing to Eswatini's low performance.

These results indicate that regional variation is tied less to legal structures or the number of ratified conventions than to the effectiveness of national institutions and real implementation on the ground.

Although Mauritius, Ethiopia, and Tanzania belong to one



African Human Rights Typology

Country diagnostic patterns (ADC)

ADC-100

Implementation Gap

Implementation gap

Example: Sierra Leone

Illustrative example

ADC-200

Paper Compliance

Paper compliance

Example: Sierra Leone

Illustrative example

ADC-300

Institutional Regression

Institutional regression

Example: Guinea

Illustrative example

ADC-400

Legality–Effectiveness Disconnect

Legality–effectiveness disconnect

Example: Ethiopia

Illustrative example

ADC-500

Civic Space Contraction

Civic space contraction

Example: Tanzania

Illustrative example

ADC-600

Structural Collapse

Structural collapse

Example: Eswatini

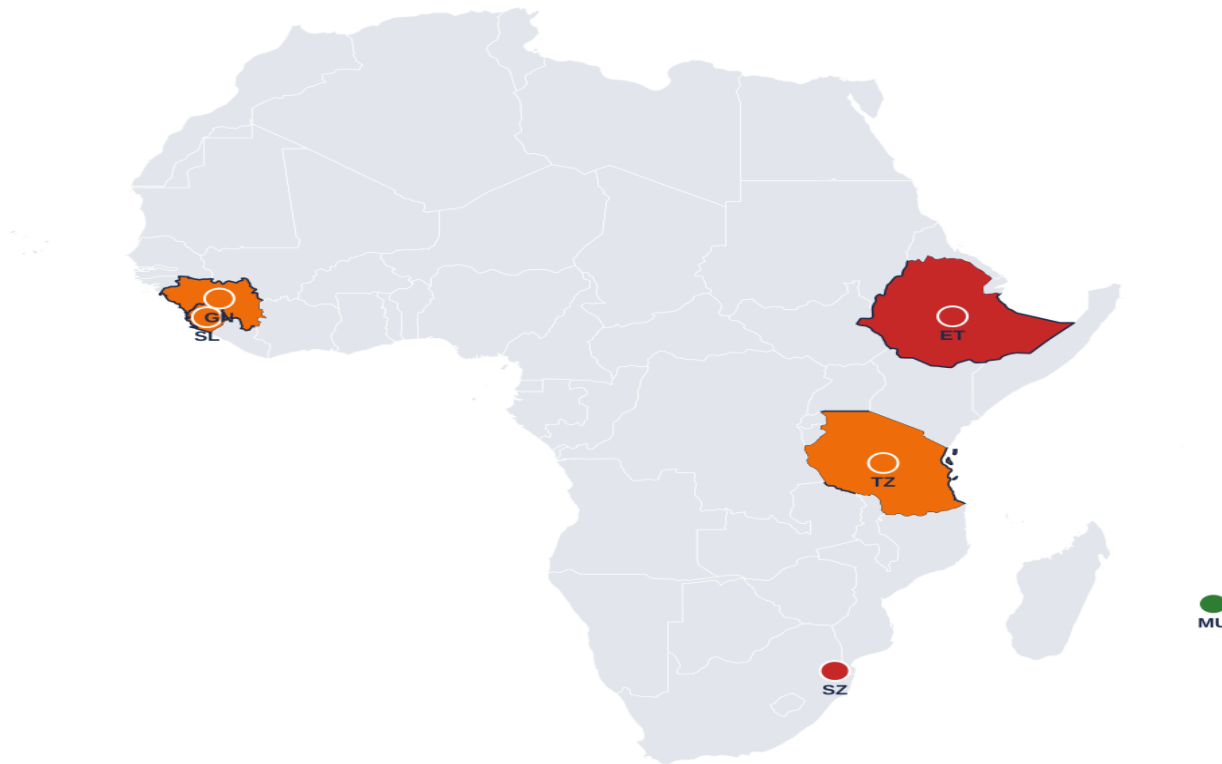
Illustrative example



Human Rights Risk Map

Human-rights risk map by institutional diagnosis

Risk Level by Country



Risk Legend



Low

Institutional coherence; minor sectoral gaps



Moderate

Legal progress outpacing enforcement



High

Wide implementation gaps; weak accountability



Very High

Compounding structural & institutional fragility

Country → ADC Diagnosis

- Ethiopia — ADC-400
- Sierra Leone — ADC-200 / ADC-100
- Tanzania — ADC-500
- Eswatini — ADC-600

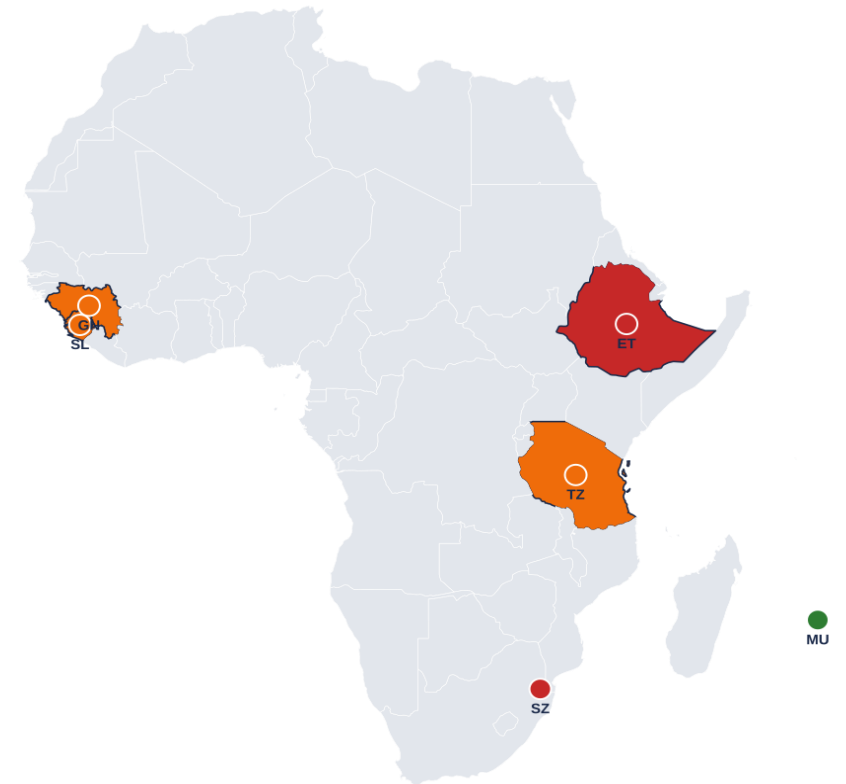


Human Rights Risk Map

Human-rights risk map by institutional diagnosis

Risk Level by Country

	Ethiopia East Africa	ADC-400 Disconnect between legal legitimacy and institutional effectiveness	Very High Risk
	Sierra Leone West Africa	ADC-200 / ADC-100 Paper compliance + implementation gap	High Risk
	Tanzania East Africa	ADC-500 Regression of institutional protection of civic freedoms	High Risk
	Eswatini Southern Africa	ADC-600 Comprehensive structural weakness in the rights-protection system	Very High Risk
	Guinea West Africa	ADC-300 Regression of institutional guarantees and the rule of law	High Risk
	Mauritius East Africa	ADC-800 High institutional coherence	Low Risk



Top Findings

Top continental findings in numbers



84.7

Average implementation gap across the sample (points)



5 / 6

States showing a disconnect between the structural dimension and implementation



1

Only one state achieved a “Good” rating



66.7%

of the states were rated “Very Weak”



131.9

Largest recorded implementation gap — Ethiopia (points)



55.0%

Highest regional average performance — West Africa



Recommendations Roadmap

Reform roadmap 2026–2028

2026

Legislative Alignment

Legislative alignment

- ✓ Align legislation with the African Charter
- ✓ Revise assembly and expression laws
- ✓ Criminalise torture and enforced disappearance

2027

Institutional Reform

Institutional reform

- ✓ Strengthen judicial independence
- ✓ Empower national human-rights institutions
- ✓ Build rights-performance measurement systems

2028

Accountability & Monitoring

Accountability & periodic monitoring

- ✓ Enforce African Court judgments
- ✓ Embed AHRI in early-warning mechanisms
- ✓ Periodic reporting on the implementation gap

Mauritius

Mauritius — human-rights diagnostic profile



#1

63.29%

Good

Port Louis · East Africa
1.3 million · Parliamentary democracy

Three Dimensions

Structural (142/202)



Process (120/212)

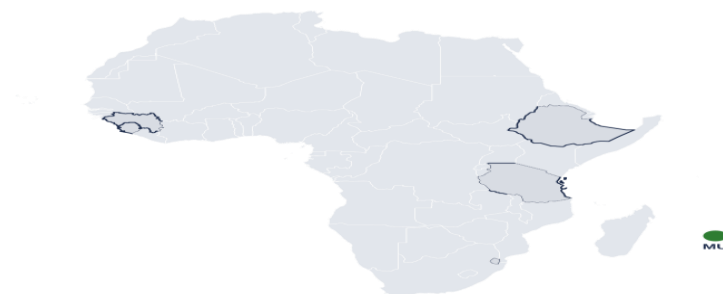


Outcome (142.8/219)



Gap: -0.8 pts

Risk: Low



Domain Scores

Civil & Political Rights		103
Freedom of Expression		43
Freedom of Assembly & Association		64
Access to Justice & Rule of Law		59
Economic & Social Rights		78
Rights of Vulnerable Groups		57

ADC-800

High institutional coherence

Principal gap: freedom of expression and protection of vulnerable groups

Trend: stable, with emerging qualitative challenges

Strengths

- Highest overall score among the countries studied
- Best outcome-dimension performance in the sample
- High alignment between the legislative framework and practice

Weaknesses

- Relative decline in freedom of expression
- Absence of an integrated national framework for asylum-seekers
- Migrant-labour protection challenges

Reform priority

Preserve gains and address sectoral gaps

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone — human-rights diagnostic profile



#2

60.60%

Moderate

Freetown · West Africa
8.6 million · Presidential republic

Three Dimensions

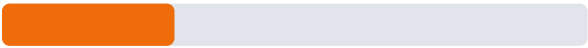
Structural (190/202)



Process (125/212)

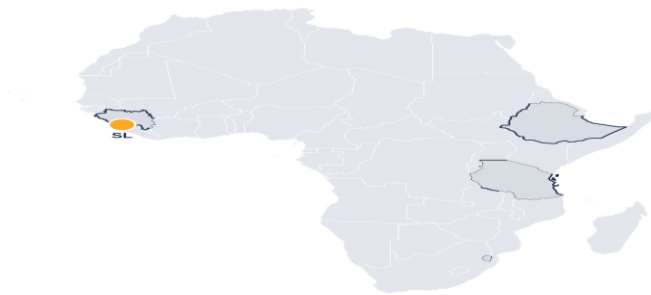


Outcome (64.5/219)



Gap: +125.5 pts

Risk: High



Domain Scores

Civil & Political Rights		73
Freedom of Expression		89
Freedom of Assembly & Association		60
Access to Justice & Rule of Law		55
Economic & Social Rights		64
Rights of Vulnerable Groups		58

ADC-200 / ADC-100 Paper compliance + implementation gap

Principal gap: a wide implementation gap between law and practice

Trend: continuing reform with gradual civic-space tightening

Strengths

- Highest structural-dimension score among the states
- Leads the freedom-of-expression indicator
- Abolition of the death penalty

Weaknesses

- A wide implementation gap between legislation and reality
- Overcrowded places of detention
- Weak enforcement of regional-court judgments

Reform priority

Strengthen institutional implementation and law enforcement

Guinea

Guinea — human-rights diagnostic profile



#3

49.49%

Very Weak

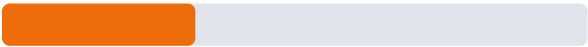
Conakry · West Africa
14.37 million · Transitional system

Three Dimensions

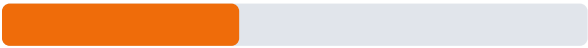
Structural (162.5/202)



Process (70/212)

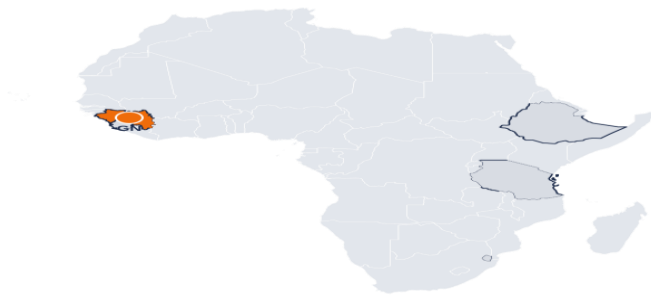


Outcome (88.7/219)



Gap: +73.8 pts

Risk: High



Domain Scores



ADC-300

Regression of institutional guarantees and the rule of law

Principal gap: institutional independence and civic freedoms

Trend: gradual deterioration of the rights environment

Strengths

- A standing constitutional and legislative framework
- A presidential election and a new constitution
- Substantial natural resources

Weaknesses

- Decline of political pluralism and freedom of organisation
- Alleged enforced disappearances of opponents and activists
- Weak access to justice

Reform priority

Strengthen institutional independence and restore democratic guarantees

Ethiopia

Ethiopia — human-rights diagnostic profile



#4

47.00%

Very Weak

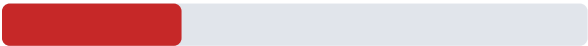
Addis Ababa · East Africa
≈135.5 million (2025) · Federal parliamentary republic

Three Dimensions

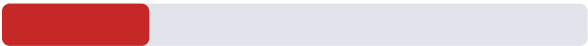
Structural (187/202)



Process (65/212)

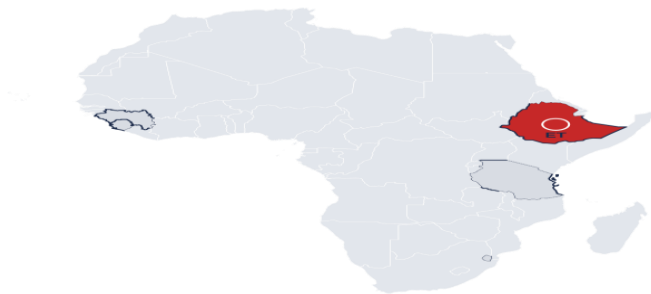


Outcome (55.1/219)



Gap: +131.9 pts

Risk: Very High



Domain Scores



ADC-400

Disconnect between legal legitimacy and institutional effectiveness

Principal gap: implementation of constitutional guarantees and the rule of law

Trend: continuing decline in institutional effectiveness

Strengths

- An advanced constitutional framework with broad guarantees
- Broad accession to international conventions
- Media reforms and the decriminalisation of defamation

Weaknesses

- A widening gap between law and reality
- The impact of armed conflicts on rights
- Pressure on judicial independence

Reform priority

Restore institutions' capacity to enforce rights

Tanzania

Tanzania — human-rights diagnostic profile



#5

41.57%

Very Weak

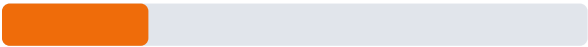
Dodoma · East Africa
67 million · Presidential republic

Three Dimensions

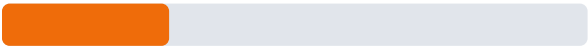
Structural (155/202)



Process (53/212)



Outcome (62.5/219)



Gap: +92.5 pts

Risk: High



Domain Scores

Civil & Political Rights		45
Freedom of Expression		30
Freedom of Assembly & Association		25
Access to Justice & Rule of Law		20
Economic & Social Rights		55
Rights of Vulnerable Groups		65

ADC-500

Regression of institutional protection of civic freedoms

Principal gap: civic freedoms and accountability

Trend: decline in civic space

Strengths

- A basic legal framework for rights protection
- High engagement with international conventions
- Positive performance on rights of vulnerable groups

Weaknesses

- Decline of freedom of expression and assembly
- Reduced effectiveness of justice and accountability
- Use of excessive force and enforced disappearance

Reform priority

Strengthen protection of freedoms and guarantee accountability

Eswatini

Eswatini — human-rights diagnostic profile

#6

37.80%

Very Weak

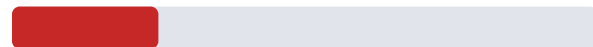
Mbabane · Southern Africa
1.24 million · Absolute monarchy

Three Dimensions

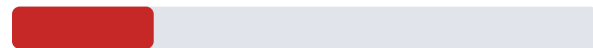
Structural (138/202)



Process (53/212)

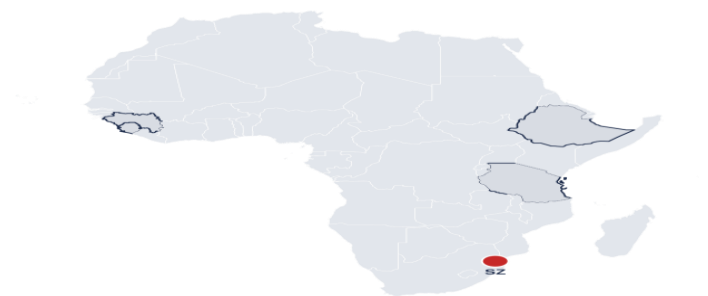


Outcome (53/219)



Gap: +85.0 pts

Risk: Very High



Domain Scores

Civil & Political Rights		15
Freedom of Expression		20
Freedom of Assembly & Association		10
Access to Justice & Rule of Law		15
Economic & Social Rights		35
Rights of Vulnerable Groups		30

ADC-600

**Comprehensive structural weakness
in the rights-protection system**

Principal gap: civic freedoms and the rule of law

Trend: continuing decline in rights performance

Strengths

- Relatively high spending on education and health
- High primary-school enrolment rates
- Existence of a national human-rights institution

Weaknesses

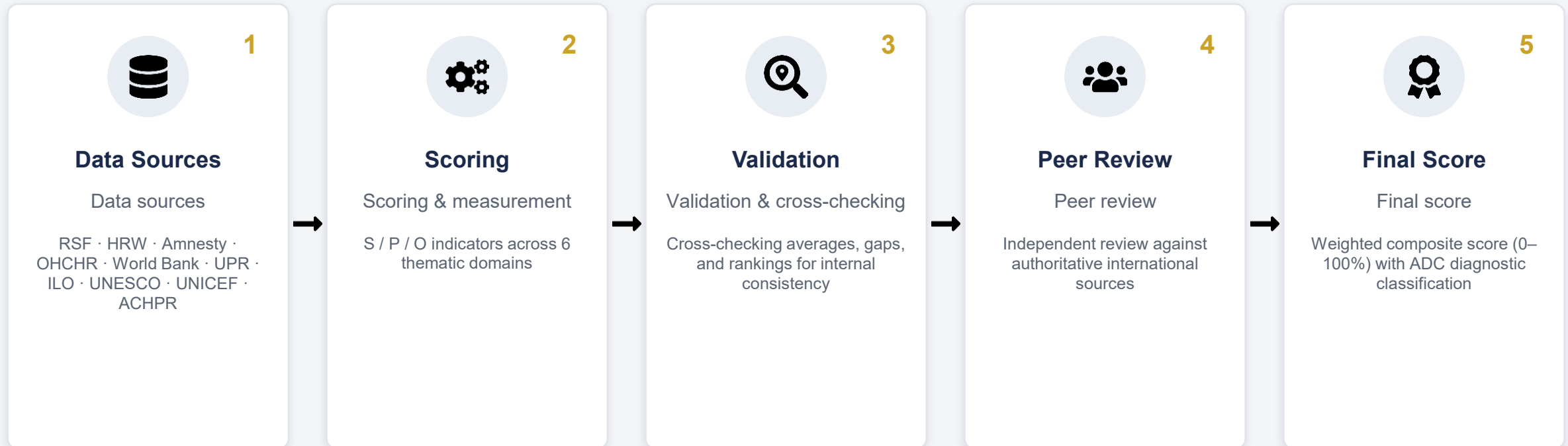
- The sample's lowest civic-freedom indicators
- Restrictions on assembly and political organisation
- Weak fair-trial guarantees

Reform priority

Build institutional guarantees and strengthen
fundamental freedoms

Methodology

From data to the final score



The African Human Rights Index (AHRI) rests on a three-dimensional framework (Structure, Process, Outcome) across six thematic domains, with mutual internal checks of arithmetic consistency and external matching against trusted international sources before the final score is adopted.



African Human Rights Index

African Human Rights Index

Annual Report ٢٠٢٥/٢٠٢٦

African Human Rights Atlas

African Human Rights Atlas — AHRI 2025/2026

El-Hak Foundation for Freedom of Expression & Human Rights
El-Hak Foundation for Freedom of Expression & Human Rights

www.elhak.org · info@elhak.org