

# Africa

## Online Legislative Tracker

Addressing the online gambling space in each jurisdiction in Africa is a huge undertaking not just because of the continent's size, but also due to the diverse nature of African politics, history and religion

As a result it is almost impossible to make any generalisations concerning the state of the online market when it comes to Africa as a whole. Instead online gambling legislation in every jurisdiction needs to be looked at in the wider context of both its political system and recent political developments. Even then the current state of online gambling and its future can be unclear. The culture in Africa is varied and manifold while the continent is divided into a great number of ethnic cultures. In addition African countries themselves are highly diverse. Nigeria, for example, is home to some 470 languages, while the Democratic Republic of Congo has 242.

Meanwhile the population is growing fast. According to the World Economic Forum, African cities will double in population by 2050. The population of Sub-Saharan has more than doubled in the past three decades and is expected to triple again by the end of this century. By 2050, Africa will account for 25 percent of the world's population according to projections by the United Nations.

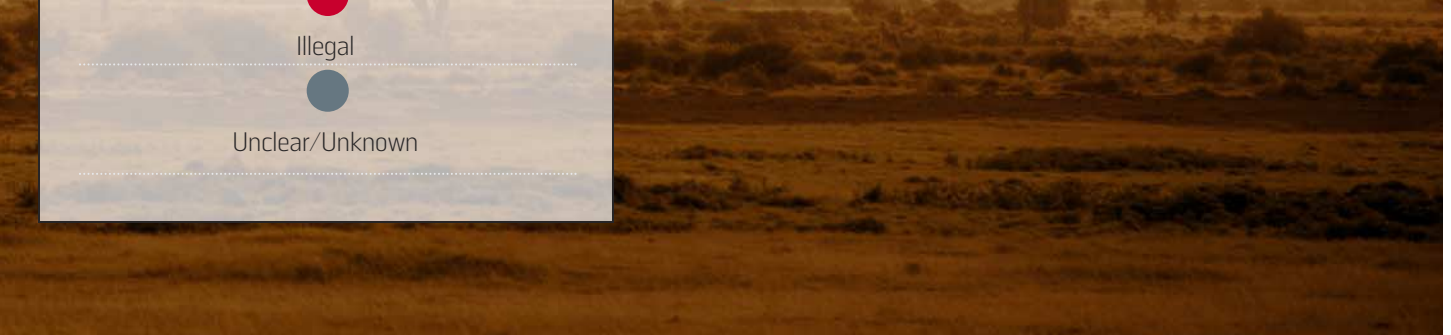
However population size varies as well. There are huge countries with populations near or exceeding 100 million such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria and countries with populations with around 1 million people such as Comoros, Djibouti and Cabo Verde.

In addition many countries are only just emerging from years of civil unrest. Rwanda is still recovering from the government-sponsored genocide in the mid-1990s. Burundi is emerging from a civil war which has lasted over twelve years. Even Kenya, one of the most stable countries in the region, has suffered attacks from the Islamist militant Al-Shabab movement while the Democratic Republic of Congo has widely been described as a failed state.

Online gambling is therefore not a high priority on the list of government agendas. However a love of sports especially football, a higher internet penetration rate and a fast growing younger population mean that there is a growing demand for online gaming in most jurisdictions and operators are making headway in some countries.

While companies based offshore offer their services around the continent there are an increasing number of locally based operators who are able to assess and meet customer needs from the ground. Increased government scrutiny in some regions has meant improving conditions while a number of governments are looking at restricting online gambling over fears of gambling addiction especially amongst the young.

In other jurisdictions governments look like they could address online gambling soon. All the same an updated and a fully regulated online industry in the majority of jurisdictions is still a long way off. Indeed in a small number of jurisdictions the political climate remains so unstable and unpredictable that we may never see any kind of online gambling rules in place at all.



# East Africa



Burundi



Comoros



Djibouti



Ethiopia



## Burundi

### Government

Burundi is still emerging from a civil war which has lasted over twelve years. Since gaining its independence in 1962 tensions between the usually-dominant Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority have continued. Former coup leader Azali Assoumani was declared winner of the May 2016. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament, the Senate and the National Assembly.

### Population

11,575,964

### Access to Internet

17,116 Internet users. 5.3 per cent penetration rate

### Operators in Market

Off shore operators tolerated. No locally based operators.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated

## Comoros

### Government

There are four major islands, as well as many smaller ones, in the country. Of the four major islands, Anjouan and Moheli, declared unilateral independence in a violent conflict in 1997. Executive power is exercised by the government. Federal legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

## Population

850,000

### Access to Internet

Around 8 per cent

### Operators in Market

No locally licensed operators specifically offering services to the local market. Offshore operators target the market.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Legal since 1999 under the Computer Gambling Licensing Act in Anjouan Anjouan offers international gambling licenses to offshore companies. Locals may gamble online and the Betting and Gaming Act 2005 makes it possible for international gambling sites to acquire local licenses.

## Djibouti

### Government

The executive power is exercised by the President and the Government. Legislative power is vested in both the Government and the National Assembly.

### Population

Djibouti is a multi-ethnic nation with a population of over 884,017 inhabitants.

### Access to Internet

49,231,493. 48.7 per cent penetration.

### Operators in Market

No locally based online operators. Tolerated. A number of offshore operators accept players.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated.

## Ethiopia

### Government

Since 2018, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has launched a campaign of political liberalisation at home and sought to end disputes with Ethiopia's neighbours. The Prime Minister is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. The prime minister is chosen by the parliament. Federal legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament.

### Population

110,135,635. Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the continent of Africa and the second-most populous country of Africa after Nigeria. Ethiopia is currently one of the fastest growing countries in the world, with a growth rate of 3.02 per cent per year. If Ethiopia follows its current rate of growth, its population will double in the next 30 years, hitting 210 million by 2060.

### Access to Internet

16,437,811 internet users. 14.9 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Abyssinia Bet is the only locally licensed operator. It is licensed by the National Lottery Administration (NLA). There are now over ten sports betting operators licensed by the NLA all of which have branches in the regional states. However locally developed online betting sites are less developed. A number of off shore operators accept players from Ethiopia.





## Online Gambling Legislation

Online gambling is still largely speaking unregulated.

### Eritrea Government

Eritrea won independence from Ethiopia in 1993. However the political system is still characterised by repression. The People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) is the only legal party in Eritrea. National elections have been periodically scheduled and cancelled; and none have ever been held in the country. President Isaias Afwerki has been in office since independence in 1993. Eritrea is a one-party state and a highly-militarised society, which the government has sought to justify by citing the threat of war with Ethiopia (the last war lasted 30 years).

**Population**  
6m

### Access to Internet

Eritrea has by far the lowest internet penetration on the continent. As at 2018, it had only 71,000 internet users, estimated to be 1.3 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

None. A small number of offshore operators may accept players.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated

### Kenya Government

Kenya has a multi-party system in accordance with its constitution passed in 2010. The national government is composed of: the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. Kenya is east Africa's richest economy and a key regional hub for security, diplomacy and trade. Since attaining independence from British rule in 1963, Kenya had been one of few African exceptions to military coups and civil conflicts. The son of Kenya's founding president became head of state in April 2013, despite facing charges of crimes against humanity over election violence five years earlier. The Islamist militant Al-Shabab movement, active in Somalia, has also been launching a growing number of attacks in Kenya.

### Population

48m. Kenya is characterised by rapid urban growth. It has one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

### Access to Internet

43,329,434. 83.0 per cent penetration. More than 60 per cent of Kenyans own Smartphones, while mobile subscription stands at 82 per cent. Kenya is leading globally in share of internet traffic coming from mobile phones overtaking Nigeria, which was at the top in 2017. Most mobile service companies now provide limited 3G internet services, with some upgrading to 4G. However, 4G signals do not extend to many parts of rural Kenya.

### Operators in Market

An estimated 2 million people in Nairobi alone participate in online betting. Although other forms of gambling – such as lotteries, slot machines, football pools, traditional betting shops and casinos – are also popular, online sports betting comprises the biggest share of the country's gambling market. Operators in the market include Elite Bet, Betway, sportybet.com, Sportpesa, 1XBET Kenya, 22bet, Betpawa, Betin, Betway and Gamemania – the first casino app that allows gamblers to bet in Kenyan shillings.

### Online Gambling Legislation

The Betting, Lotteries and Gaming Act empowers the Betting Control and Licensing Board Kenya to license and control both gaming and betting premises, to facilitate generation and collection of both casino and betting taxes, authorise public lotteries and prize competitions, and eradicate illegal gambling. The government is planning major changes to online gaming laws and has initiated a crackdown on operators. In July the Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB) announced that it had declined permission to renew licenses of 19 sports betting companies while it reviewed their operations and shareholding structures.

Kenya also ordered the deportation of 17 foreign directors of betting firms operating in Kenya. The (BCLB) said that that it would not renew the gaming licenses to online operator SportPensa and 26 other companies due to failure to payments of US\$586.4m to the

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treasury. SportPesa had its licence suspended after the government claimed online betting companies were not doing enough to curb the rise of gambling addiction among young people and also not paying enough tax.

The announcement came days after the government put a new draft of its gaming laws forward as it seeks to repeal the Betting, Lotteries and Gaming Act of 1966. A number of the proposals in the new bill are targeted at gambling addiction and put in place stronger advertising controls. The bill also proposes that citizens co-own betting companies through shareholding meaning that new companies seeking to get a foothold in the market will have to incorporate Kenyans to the extent of 30 percent following a six-month 'transition period' following the bill's enactment.

Crucially, additional taxes mean that some of the leading land based and online operators will be leaving the market. In September it was revealed that in response to a new 20 per cent tax on betting stakes in the country, SportPesa and Betin—two of the country's largest sports betting companies—have stopped their business operations in Kenya. The new taxes are in addition to an existing tax on individual gamblers' winnings plus other taxes. SportPesa says it will no longer operate in Kenya until a "non-hostile regulatory environment is returned."

## Madagascar Government

The President of Madagascar is head of state and the Prime Minister of Madagascar is head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Senate and the National Assembly. In 1960 Madagascar gained its independence from France. However it has undergone repeated periods of political turmoil. The most recent coup took place 2009. Despite the return of democratic elections in 2013, the political situation remains fragile.

### Population

25m. Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world

### Access to Internet

Around 13 per cent of its 25 million inhabitants have access to the Internet.

### Operators in Market

Tolerated. Offshore operators accept players.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated.

## Malawi

### Government

During the first 30 years of independence Malawi was run by authoritarian President Hastings Kamuzu Banda. However democratic institutions have taken a hold since the mid-1990s. The politics of Malawi takes place in a framework of a Presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President of Malawi is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-

party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly.

### Population

18.62m

### Access to Internet

1,828,503. 9.3 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

According to the Malawi gaming board only Premier Bet Malawi is licensed. However offshore operators target the market and are tolerated.

### Online Gambling Legislation

The Malawi Gaming Board was established under the Gaming Act of 1996, and amended in 1998. Online gambling is not regulated under current rules.

## Mauritius

### Government

The Government of Mauritius is the main authority of the executive power. The head of the Government is the Prime Minister of Mauritius, who manages the main agenda of the Government and directs the ministers.

### Population

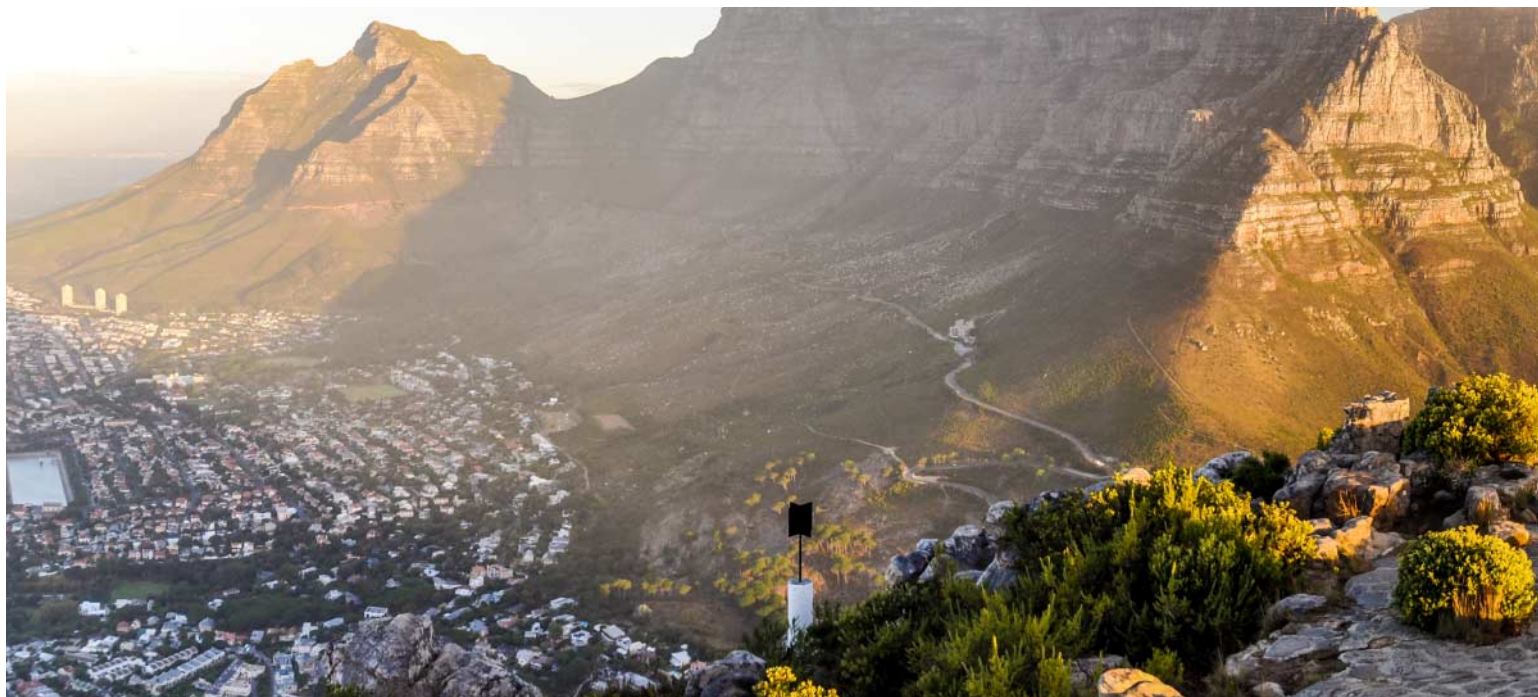
1.3m

### Access to Internet

The internet penetration rate stands at around 60.00 per cent. 803,896 Internet users.

### Operators in Market

Online gaming operators based in Mauritius have been granted licenses since 1996, however there are no licensed online







gambling sites at present. It is illegal for offshore operators to offer their services to those physically present in Mauritius.

#### Online Gambling Legislation

The Gambling Regulatory Authority is a body corporate established in 2007 which now operates under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office. The Authority is administered and managed by a Gambling Regulatory Board and may issue online licences. The Minister may make regulations to provide for the conduct of interactive gambling operation in Mauritius and for the issue of licences. It is an offence for any person operating interactive gambling outside Mauritius to allow a person physically present in Mauritius to have access to their site. In addition the board may through the Information and Communication Technologies Authority block access by persons physically present in Mauritius to interactive gambling sites outside Mauritius.

Any financial institution in Mauritius may also be ordered to stop payment made by persons physically present in Mauritius to any person operating interactive gambling outside the country.

#### Mayotte

##### Government

An overseas department and region of France officially named the Department of Mayotte. The politics of Mayotte takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic government and

of a multi-party system, whereby the President of the Departmental Council is the head of the local assembly. Executive power is exercised by the French government.

##### Population

270,372,

##### Access to Internet

107,940. 40.5 per cent penetration,

##### Operators in Market

Online sites approved by ARJEL. The Regulatory Authority for Online Games.

##### Online Gambling Legislation

The adherence of Mayotte to the French laws covers online gambling i.e. The French Gambling Act (Law number 2010-476). All French online casino laws automatically apply in the department as well.

#### Mozambique

##### Government

Mozambique, is still suffering from the effects of a 16-year civil war that ended in 1992. The President of Mozambique is head of state and head of government of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Assembly of the Republic.

##### Population

29.5 million. 45 per cent of the population is younger than 15. The country's birth rate is among the world's highest.

##### Access to Internet

Internet access in Mozambique has tripled in the last 10 years. 5,279,135 Internet users. 16.8 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

Premierbet. Betyetu, jogabets.co.

##### Online Gambling Legislation

According to Law 1/2010 and Law 9/2012, all operators must be licensed under Mozambican law in order to operate in Mozambique. This requirement applies to the offer of gambling services via the Internet.

#### Reunion

##### Government

Réunion is an overseas department and region of France. Réunion is governed by French law.

##### Population

866,506

##### Access to Internet

480,000 Internet users. 53.9 per cent of the population.

##### Operators in Market

Online sites approved by ARJEL. The Regulatory Authority for Online Games.

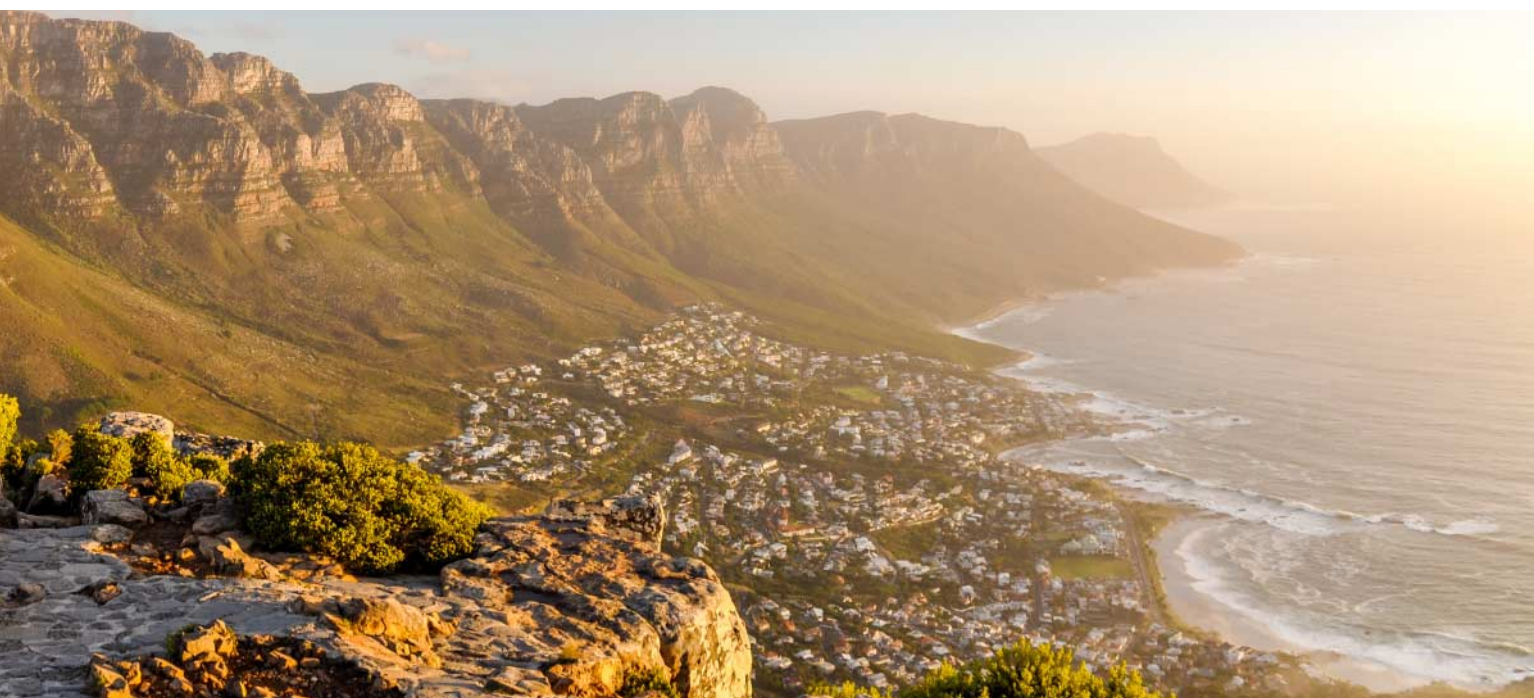
##### Online Gambling Legislation

The French Gambling Act (Law number 2010-476). All French online casino laws automatically apply in the department as well.

#### Rwanda

##### Government

Rwanda is still recovering from the government-sponsored genocide in the mid-1990s when 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by dominant Hutu forces in 100 days. Paul Kagame, who



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became president in 2000 has effectively run Rwanda since 1994.

The President of Rwanda is both head of state and head of government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

#### Population

12,794,412

#### Access to Internet

3,724,678. 29.1 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

Premier Bet. AfricaBet. luckybetrwanda.com While there are still no laws in place online gambling is tolerated by the government and a number of licensed land based sports betting operators offer online betting including in some cases online casino games. Gorilla games – the first-ever Rwandan online gaming and sports betting site was licensed by the government earlier this year.

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Unlike other forms of gambling the online market is unregulated. Statistics from the Ministry of Trade and Industry show that there are eight betting companies, eight slot machine gaming companies and three casinos registered in the country. There are thousands of sports betting shops in Rwanda. In June the government announced that it had temporarily stopped issuing any more gaming licences due to fears over gambling addiction.

#### Seychelles

##### Government

Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly.

#### Population

95,702

#### Access to Internet

7,119 Internet users. 70.1 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

Permitted.

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Interactive Gambling Act of 2003. Online gambling licenses are issued by the Seychelles licensing authority. According to the act "A company that has a gambling license issued in Seychelles is exempt from all types of corporate taxes and special gambling taxes".

#### Somalia

##### Government

Somalia collapsed into anarchy following the overthrow of the military regime of President

Siad Barre in 1991. Since 2012, when a new internationally-backed government was installed, Somalia has very slowly becoming more stable. However the new authorities still face a challenge from Al-Qaeda-aligned Al-Shabab insurgents. Today the politics of Somalia takes place in a framework of federal parliamentary representative democratic republic. According to the Constitution of Somalia, the President of Somalia is head of state, and Prime Minister as head of government who is appointed by the President with the parliament's approval.

#### Population

15,636,171

#### Access to Internet

1,200,000. 7.7 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

None

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Illegal

#### Tanzania

##### Government

A former British colony Tanzania has enjoyed political stability over many years and has long been regarded as one of Africa's most stable democracies. The President of Tanzania is both head of state and head of government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The party system is dominated by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Revolutionary State Party).

#### Population

61m.

#### Access to Internet

23,000,000 Internet users. 37.8 per cent of the population

#### Operators in Market

In late 2013 the first online casino and games operator Dunia was approved by the Tanzanian government. Dunia Investments Limited, operating under the brand iplay8casino.com. launched in October 2013. For sports betting, M-Bet and MeridianBet.co.tz are both licensed by the Gaming Board of Tanzania. MeridianBet.co.tz is owned by Gaming Africa (T) Ltd, which also runs betting shops in Tanzania.

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Legal since December 1999, by way of an amendment to the Gaming Act, although only fixed-odds wagering, sports betting, simulated games and lotteries were only allowed to begin with. In the first quarter of 2011 the Gaming Board of began drafting new legislation for online gambling which would allowed for online casino games.

Today the Gaming Board of Tanzania may issue license for both online sports betting and casinos. In March 2019 the head of Tanzania's gaming board James Mbalwe said

that Tanzania had recorded significant increases in gaming tax revenue due to the rising number of players and tighter controls. Mbalwe also said that the growth of technological innovations had witnessed the introduction of online casino games, SMS Lottery and sports betting and said that more than 20,000 people had secured direct jobs in the companies engaged in sports betting meaning that sports betting has become a major employer. According to the government, revenue from the sports betting industry has more than doubled in the past three years. Revenue has been boosted by both online and bricks and mortar sports betting shops. However the government is under pressure from religious leaders who want a ban on betting. Earlier this year the government imposed restrictions on advertising over fears over gambling addiction. The Tanzanian government has recently placed a ban on gaming ads until the matter is resolved.

#### Uganda

##### Government

Presidential republic, in which the President of Uganda is both head of state and head of government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly. Yoweri Museveni and his National Resistance Movement have ruled Uganda without interruption since seizing power in 1986. Yoweri Museveni won the 2011 presidential elections after a 2005 constitutional amendment lifted presidential term limits, and went on to win again in 2016. Museveni has been credited with restoring relative stability and economic prosperity to Uganda following years of civil war and repression under former leaders.

#### Population

44.27m.

#### Access to Internet

19,000,000. 41.6 per cent of the population. The number of people with access to a digital service has increased significantly since the 2000s. 2G networks now cover more than 90 per cent of the population and the scope of digital services has expanded to a variety of services across multiple sectors. Just over 19.8 million people have a mobile subscription, representing 44 per cent of the population. The number of Smartphone connections in Uganda has quadrupled over the last four years to approximately 6m

#### Operators and online betting sites

There are around 400 online gaming companies accessible to Ugandan players. Offshore operators target the market while the number of locally based companies offering online gambling is limited. The board





has licensed 9 locally based online operators. These too are popular especially World Star Betting, Gal Sports Betting and TopBet Uganda as well as Elite Bet, Betway, Premier bet, Betin and SportPesa. At the same time offshore operators are present in the market

**Online Gambling Legislation**  
Permitted but only those who are over 25 may gamble online or via land based betting facilities. Online and land based gambling operations are supervised by the National Gaming Board of Uganda. Restrictions on sports betting look increasingly likely after the government claimed in January that the industry was leading to gambling addiction especially amongst Ugandan youth. According to government data the sports betting industry has quadrupled in size over the last four years.

**Zambia Government**

Since gaining its independence in 1964, Zambia has gone through a long period of relative political stability. Multi-party elections were introduced in 1991. However, the period following the 2016 August general election has seen an increase in tension, but this has not manifested itself in major civil unrest. The President of Zambia is head of state, head of government and leader of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government, while legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

**Population**

18,137,369. Zambia also has one of the world's fastest growing populations with the UN projecting that its population will triple by 2050.

**Access to Internet**

6,796,314. 39.3 per cent of the population.

**Operators in Market**

Betway, M-bet, Betpawa, CastleBet and BetArena. Only a handful of local betting operators are licensed to offer online gambling. Offshore operators are present.

**Online Gambling Legislation**

Gambling is legal in Zambia, with lotteries and sports betting being the most popular. Wagers can be placed both online and at betting shops. Although licences have been granted online gambling is not regulated by specific law as current legislation is focused solely on land-based operations.

**Zimbabwe Government**

President Robert Mugabe dominated the country's political scene for almost four decades after independence from Britain in 1980. The status of Zimbabwean politics has been thrown into question by a 2017 coup after the removal of the Robert Mugabe (now deceased). He was replaced by Emmerson Mnangagwa. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

**Population**

16m

**Access to Internet**

6,796,314. 39.3 per cent

**Operators in Market**

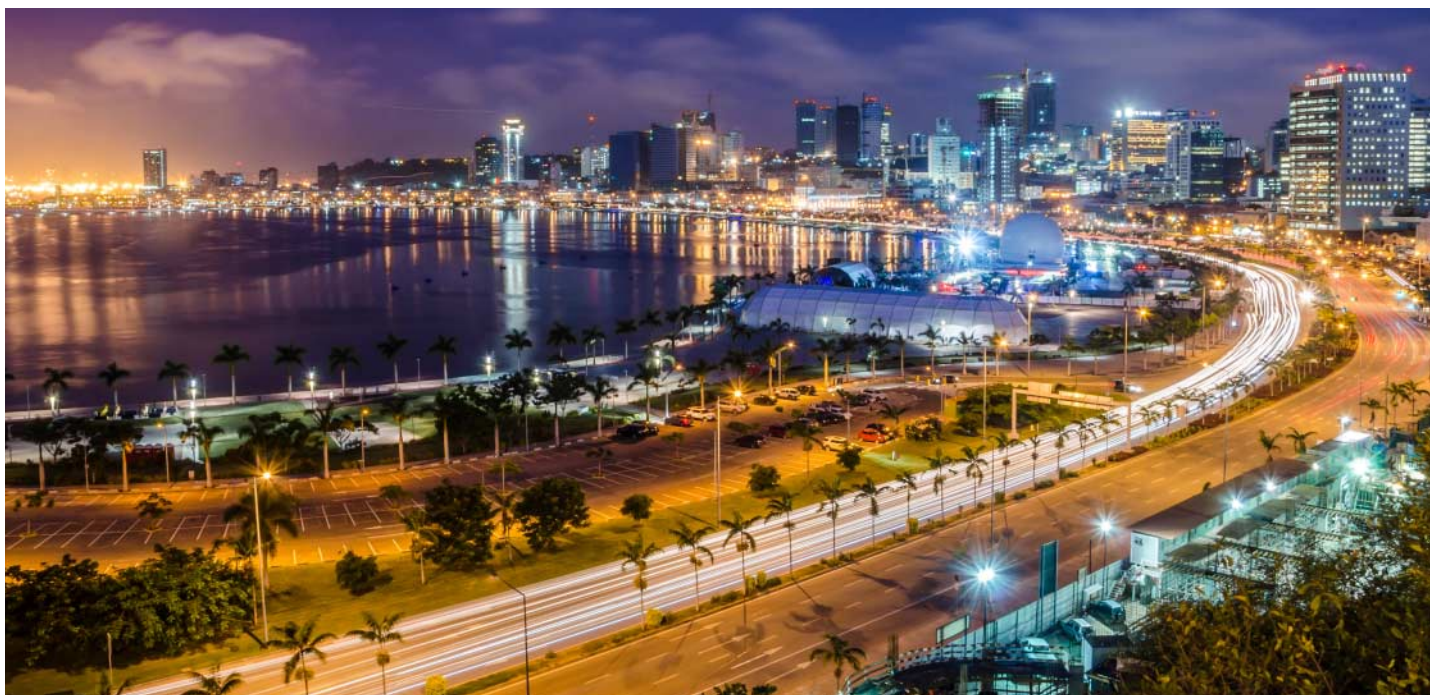
There are currently no officially licensed Zimbabwean online operators but a number of companies do offer their services online even though it is illegal. Offshore operators are present in the market.

**Online Gambling Legislation**

Land based sports betting is legal under the betting and totalizator control act of 1980. It is illegal to bet online via local sites. However the government has admitted it is powerless to stop operators not based in Zimbabwe from offering their services. Betting activities across all areas are overseen by the Lottery and Gambling Board of Zimbabwe which falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 2016 the board warned the public against illegal internet betting, lotteries and gaming activities saying that: "There are no internet Bookmakers (sport betting), lottery, totalizators, casino etc licensees in Zimbabwe. Therefore members of the public, banks and other financial intermediaries ought to be vigilant and report any such activities..." to the government.

**Angola Government**

Former independence movements competed for power until 2002. The country's current constitution, promulgated in 2010, eliminated the post of prime minister, added the post of vice president,





# Central Africa



and strengthened the role of the president. It eliminated the direct election of the president and instead provided for the presidential post to be filled by the leader of the party with the largest share of the vote in legislative elections. The president is limited to two five-year terms. Legislative power is vested in the National Assembly, whose members are elected to four-year terms. Angola's new president, Joao Lourenco, swept into power in 2017 on a wave of promised reforms.

#### Population

31,787,566

#### Access to Internet

7,078,067. 22.3 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

Offshore operators accept players. No locally based companies.

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated

#### Cameroon

##### Government

Created in 1961 by the unification of a British and a French colony. Internally, there are tensions over the two mainly English-speaking south-western provinces. A secessionist movement emerged in the 1990s, and turned into an insurgency in 2016. The mainly-Muslim far north has been drawn into the regional Islamist insurgency of the Boko Haram group. The President of Cameroon is both head of state and head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National

Assembly of Cameroon.

#### Population

4,825,711

#### Access to Internet

6,128,422. 24.2 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

Offshore operators are present in the market such as Betmomo and PremierBet. There are also a growing number of locally based online operators such as Roisbet. Founded in 2014, Roisbet is a registered company in the Republic of Cameroon and operates under a licence obtained by the Ministry of Territorial Administration And Decentralization . Also CG Bet which was granted a licence by the same authority in 2017 and which also operates sports betting shops.

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Online gambling is not specifically regulated in any online gambling law. The current Gambling Act, written in 1989 and modified in 2004, makes no mention of online gambling but licences are granted to locally based companies via the Ministry of Territorial Administration And Decentralization.

#### Central African Republic

##### Government

The Central African Republic has been unstable since its independence from France in 1960. The country is undergoing an internationally supervised transition involving a constitutional referendum as well as presidential and parliamentary elections. The President is the head of state, with a Prime

Minister as head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

#### Population

4,825,711

#### Access to Internet

256,432. 5.3 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

Unknown

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated.

#### Chad

##### Government

Chad's post-independence history has been marked by instability and violence, stemming mostly from tension between the mainly Arab-Muslim north and the predominantly Christian south. The President of Chad is both head of state and head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

#### Population

15,814,345

#### Access to Internet

768,274 Internet users. Just 4.9 per cent of the population.

#### Operators in Market

Tolerated. No locally based operators.

#### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated



Republic of the Congo



Democratic Republic of Congo



Equatorial Guinea



Gabon



Sao Tome and Principe



## The Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville) Government

A Presidential unitary republic whereby the President is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of government, of a pluriform multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the President and the Government. Civil wars and militia conflicts have plagued the Republic of Congo.

### Population

5,542,197

### Access to Internet

650,000. 11.7 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

No local operators. Offshore companies accept players

### Online Gambling Legislation

Gambling was first regulated in 2005. Online gambling remains unregulated.

## Congo, Democratic Republic of the Government

### Government

The politics of the Democratic Republic of Congo takes place in a framework of a republic in transition from a civil war to a semi-presidential republic. The war claimed up to six million lives. It has been widely described as a failed state, unable to meet its citizens' basic needs.

### Population

86,727,573

### Access to Internet

5,137,271. 5.9 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Unknown

## Online Gambling Legislation

Gambling has been legal since 2005 but no rules in place over online gambling.

## Equatorial Guinea

### Government

Presidential unitary republic whereby the President is both the head of state and head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Chamber of People's Representatives. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo is Africa's longest-serving leader and has ruled the former Spanish colony since 1979. He took power in a coup in 1979.

### Population

1,360,104

### Access to Internet

312,704. 23.0 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Tolerated.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Gambling is legal but online gambling is not regulated.

## Gabon

### Government

The President of Gabon is head of state and in effect, also the head of government, since he appoints the prime minister and his cabinet. Gabon is one of the region's more stable countries.

## Population

2,228,075

## Access to Internet

392,277. 17.6 per cent of the population.

## Operators in Market

Tolerated and popular.

## Online Gambling Legislation

Gambling in Gabon is regulated by the 2005 gambling act but online gambling is unregulated.

## Sao Tome and Principe

### Government

Consists of two islands of volcanic origin and a number of smaller islets lying off the coast of Africa. The President of São Tomé and Príncipe is head of state and the Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe is head of government.

### Population

16,743,859

### Access to Internet

9,749,527. 58.2 per cent of the population

### Operators in Market

Tolerated. Offshore companies accept players

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated. The gambling act, enacted in February 2004 in Sao Tome and Principe established a legal framework for licensing, taxing, controlling and overseeing the casino industry on the islands. A casino with a land based license is not permitted to offer online gambling platforms under the licence. There are no restrictions on betting offshore.





# Northern Africa



Algeria



Egypt



Libya



Morocco



South Sudan



## Algeria

### Government

The President of Algeria is head of state while the Prime Minister of Algeria is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament, the People's National Assembly and the Council of the Nation. Currently the political situation in Algeria is highly unstable. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika stepped down in April after 20 years in power. In June Algeria's Constitutional Council cancelled elections planned for the following month after protests.

### Population

42,676,018

### Access to Internet

21,000,000. 49.2 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

No locally based operators but a small number of offshore operators accept players from Algeria. Players have not been penalised by the government for betting online.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Gambling in Algeria is prohibited, except for a few specific instances when revenues from state-sanctioned lotteries and sports betting are used to fund social welfare and public projects. More than ninety-nine percent of Algeria's population is Sunni Muslim.

## Egypt

### Government

The politics of Egypt is based on republicanism, with a semi-presidential system of government, established following the Egyptian Revolution of 2011.

### Population

101,168,745

### Access to Internet

49,231,493. 48.7 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Tolerated

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated

## Libya

### Government

The Politics of Libya is in an uncertain state due to the collapse of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 2011 and an ongoing civil war between the Council of Deputies in Tobruk and its supporters, the New General National Congress in Tripoli and its supporters, and various jihadists and tribal elements controlling parts of the country.

### Population

6,569,864

### Access to Internet

3,800,000. 57.8 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

No locally based operators. Likely that Libyans gamble via offshore gaming sites

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated.

## Morocco

### Government

Parliamentary unitary constitutional monarchy whereby the Prime Minister of Morocco is the head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament.

### Population

36,635,156

### Access to Internet

22,567,154. 61.6 per cent penetration.

### Operators in Market

No locally based private operators but offshore operators are present in the market. Locally based sports betting is limited to sports betting products offered by the state sports lottery organization of Morocco :La Marocaine Des Jeux et des Sports (MDJS), the state sports lottery organization of Morocco.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated.

## South Sudan

### Government

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan on 9 July 2011 as the outcome of a 2005 agreement that ended Africa's longest-running civil war. The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (TCSS) was drafted in 2011 as a temporary document in place of a permanent constitution. Civil war broke out in 2013 when the president fell out



South Sudan



Sudan



Tunisia



Western Sahara



Botswana



with his then vice president, leading to a conflict that has displaced some 4 million people. A power-sharing agreement was signed between the warring parties in August 2018 in a bid to bring the five-year civil war to an end. The National Legislature of South Sudan is composed of the National Legislative Assembly and the Council of States. The executive branch of government is headed by the president

**Population**  
13,263,184

**Access to Internet**  
11,816,570. 27.8 per cent of the South Sudan population

**Operators in Market**  
Unknown

**Online Gambling Legislation**  
Illegal

## Sudan

**Government**  
Sudan split into two countries in July 2011 after the people of the south voted for independence. The President of Sudan is head of state and head of government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and in the two chambers, the National Assembly and the Council of States.

**Population**  
42,514,094

**Access to Internet**  
11,816,570. 27.8 per cent of the population.

**Operators in Market**  
No locally based companies but a small

number offshore operators accept players from Sudan.

## Online Gambling Legislation

All forms of gambling are strictly prohibited by the Islamic Sharia Law.

## Tunisia

### Government

Mass protests unseated President Ben Ali in 2011 – the first of a series of popular uprisings to sweep the region. There is an increasing influence of ultra-conservative Islamists. Youssef Chahed took office in August 2016. His unity government includes a broad coalition of secular, Islamist and leftist parties, independents and trade union allies. The president serves as head of state. The Prime Minister is head of government. Tunisia has a unicameral legislature.

**Population**  
11,783,168

**Access to Internet**  
7,898,534. 67.0 per cent of the population.

**Operators in Market**  
No locally based operators but offshore operators are present.

**Online Gambling Legislation**  
Illegal

## Western Sahara

### Government

The politics of Western Sahara take place in a framework of an area claimed by both the partially recognized Sahrawi Arab

Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco.

**Population**  
582,478

**Access to Internet**  
28,000. 4.8 per cent of the population.

**Operators in Market**  
Unknown

**Online Gambling Legislation**  
Unknown

## Botswana

### Government

Botswana, one of Africa's most stable countries, is the continent's longest continuous multi-party democracy. The politics of Botswana takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic, whereby the President of Botswana is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system.

**Population**  
Sparsely populated. 2m

**Access to Internet**  
923,528. 38.9 per cent of the population. Botswana has one of the highest mobile penetration rates in Africa, with growth in the number of subscribers having recovered from the sharp fall seen at the end of 2016.

A total of 1,581,855 internet users were registered in 2017 from 1,451,107 subscriptions recorded in 2016.

**Operators in Market**  
Offshore companies accept players. Local operators expected soon.



# Southern Africa



Botswana



Swaziland



Lesotho



Namibia



## Online Gambling Legislation

The Gambling Authority is a body corporate that has been established in terms of the Gambling Act No 7 of 2012. The Authority is charged with regulating the gambling industry in Botswana. The Gambling Act, 2012 commenced fully on 1st April, 2016 thus enabling the Gambling Authority to resume its regulatory function. Prior to April 2016, the gambling industry in Botswana was regulated under the Casino and Lotteries and Betting Acts.

The Gambling Authority took over the role played by the Casino Control Board, which predominantly regulated operations of casinos until then. In 2016 once the new rules were activated the Gambling Authority said it would cover all land-based and virtual betting in Botswana ranging from casinos, bookmakers, bingos, lotteries and racing. While gambling Authority CEO, Thuli Johnson said: "All kinds of betting will now need to be licensed," the Casino Control Board did not regulate online gaming at that time. In April 2019 Johnson announced that the gambling authority had been granted approval by the Minister of Investment, Trade, and Industry to issue a national lottery license, as well as casino licenses in Maun, Kasane, Palapye and Gaborone, as well as sports betting and bingo. Johnson announced that in the near future that the Gambling Authority will look to develop a locally grown online gaming industry.

## Eswatini (ex-Swaziland)

### Government

An absolute monarchy with constitutional provisions and Swazi law and custom. The kingdom of Eswatini is one of the world's last remaining absolute monarchies.

### Population

1,415,414

### Access to Internet

446,051. 31.5 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

There are only a few legal online gambling operators licensed in Swaziland linked to land based casinos such as Piggs Peak Casino and Volcanic Gold. Access to offshore gambling sites is tolerated.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Permitted. Land based casino operators are permitted to offer online gambling. In 1998 Swaziland gave Pigg's Peak Casino an extension to its brick and mortar gaming license allowing it to provide casino and sports betting online. Volcanic Gold Casino, also a land-based casino, is allowed to offer online gambling as well.

## Lesotho

### Government

A former British protectorate the Prime Minister of Lesotho is the head of government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of Parliament, the Senate and the National Assembly.

### Population

2,292,682

## Access to Internet

627,860. 27.4 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Offshore operators target the market

### Online Gambling Legislation

Land based sports betting and casino gaming is regulated. Online is unregulated.

## Namibia

### Government

Namibia has enjoyed stability since gaining independence in 1990 after a long struggle against rule by South Africa. The ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) has won every election by large majorities since 1990. Executive power is exercised by the President and Government. Namibia has a bicameral Parliament with the National Assembly as lower house, and the National Council as the upper house.

### Population

2.6m

### Access to Internet

797,027 Internet users. 30.2 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Offshore companies accept players. There are a small number of locally based online bookmakers licensed under including supreme-bet.com the leading online sports betting site in Namibia.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Bookmakers are licensed under the Gaming and Entertainment Control Act, 2018 (Act No. 13 of 2018). Online gambling is not covered in the act.



South Africa



Benin



Burkina Faso



## South Africa

### Government

The Republic of South Africa is a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President of South Africa serves both as head of state and as head of government. The President is elected by the National Assembly (the lower house of the South African Parliament) and must retain the confidence of the Assembly in order to remain in office.

### Population

50.7m

### Access to Internet

1,185,634 Internet users. 53.7 per cent of the population,

### Operators in Market

Via locally licensed bookmakers only. Licensed bookmakers are located in all the provinces throughout the Republic. Betting consists of fixed-odds bookmaking on sporting events, pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing and taking bets on the outcome of lotteries.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Gambling in South Africa is regulated by the National Gambling Act of 2004. The act applies to all gambling activities and includes clauses that specifically prohibit online gambling. The only form of legal online gambling activity in South Africa is sports betting, and any online sportsbooks must be licensed by one of the provinces through a licensed bookmaker.

The National Gambling Board is responsible for the oversight of the regulation of the

gambling industry throughout the country. Changes are on the way to how both land based sports betting and online betting is regulated. An amendment bill, which has been on the table since 2016 will revise current regulations and impose stricter controls over the industry. The least controversial parts of the act were passed in 2018 but it did not address the issue of expanding the online market to offshore sports betting operators.

## Benin

### Government

Benin is one of Africa's most stable democracies. The Politics of Benin take place in the framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, where the President of Benin is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the legislature. While the country has experienced economic growth over the past few years it ranks among the world's poorest countries.

### Population

11,801,595

### Access to Internet

3,801,758. 32.2 per cent of the population

### Operators in Market

Offshore operators are tolerated.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Land-based gambling in Benin is regulated by the 2002 Gambling act which allows

gambling of various forms, including casino gambling and lottery. Online gambling is not covered in current rules.

## Burkina Faso

### Government

A former French colony, Burkina Faso gained independence as Upper Volta in 1960. In 1983 Capt Thomas Sankara seized power and adopted radical left-wing policies but was ousted by Blaise Compaore, who went on to rule for 27 years before being ousted in a popular uprising in 2014.

The region turned into a hotbed of violent extremism and lawlessness after chaos engulfed Libya in 2011. An Islamist insurgency began in northern Mali, while Boko Haram rose in northern Nigeria. Jihadist raids began in northern Burkina Faso in 2015 before spreading to the east. The President of Burkina Faso is the head of state. Executive power is exercised by both the President and the Government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

### Population

20,321,560

### Access to Internet

3,704,265. 18.2 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

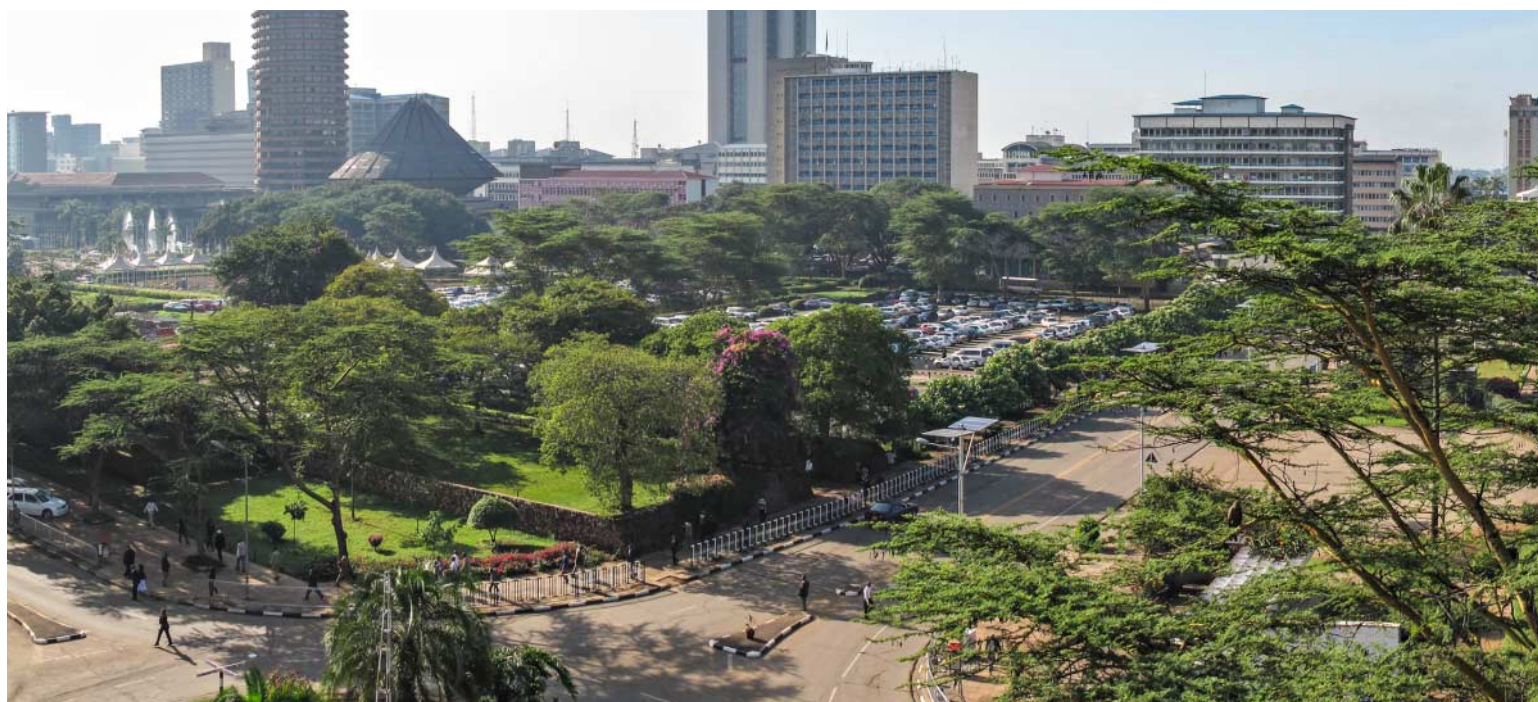
Unknown

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated



# Western Africa



Cape Verde

Ivory Coast

Gambia



## Cape Verde

### Government

The former Portuguese colony comprises of 10 islands and five islets. It has achieved political and economic stability. The Prime Minister of Cape Verde is the head of government and the President of the Republic of Cape Verde is the head of state. Executive power is exercised by the President and the Government. Legislative power is vested in both the Government and the National Assembly.

### Population

560,349

### Access to Internet

265,972. 47.5 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

MLD CV Entertainment Co under an exclusive deal with the government but not yet operational. Tolerated.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Legal. As part of a deal with David Chow's Macau Legend Development casino-resort project in Cabo Verde Macau Legend said its Cape Verdean unit has also been granted "an exclusive nationwide operation of online gaming, physical and online sports betting," for a period of 10 years from the start of operations. The casino is now under construction and is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

## Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

### Government

West Africa's largest economy and the

world's biggest cocoa producer, is still recovering from a short civil war in 2010. The country's constitutional council declared Laurent Gbagbo the winner of the presidential run-off election, while the electoral commission and international community were convinced that Alasanne Ouattara had won. Political violence that followed left at least 3,000 people dead. While this has been followed by a degree of political certainty the risk of political instability is likely to rise in the lead-up to the 2020 presidential election. The Politics of Ivory Coast takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President of Ivory Coast is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the President and the Government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

### Population

25,531,083

### Access to Internet

6,538,355. 25.6 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Loterie National de Cote d'Ivoire, (LONACI). LONACI originally started out as a national lottery. However, in 2012 the software provider LVS made a deal with LONACI to provide sports betting and horse racing capabilities through its online portal. These betting options can be accessed through a number of betting shops, through their website or through their mobile app.

Meanwhile offshore operators target the market.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Specific rules are not in place yet when it comes to online gambling.

## Gambia

### Government

The country has enjoyed long spells of stability since independence. President Yahya Jammeh ruled the country after seizing power in a coup in 1994. His 22-year rule came to an end in 2016 when he was defeated in a shock election result by the main opposition candidate, Adama Barrow. Politics of the Gambia takes place within the framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President of the Gambia is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

### Population

2,228,075

### Access to Internet

392,277. 17.6 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

Tolerated. Offshore companies present.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated.





Ghana



Guinea



Guinea-Bissau



## Ghana

### Government

In the early 1990's Ghana became a democratic state. The 1992 constitution divides powers among a president, parliament, cabinet, council of state, and an independent judiciary. Formerly known as the Gold Coast, Ghana gained independence from Britain in 1957 making it the first sub-Saharan country to gain independence. Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah, was ousted nine years after independence, and for the next twenty-five years, Ghana was typically governed by military rulers. In the early 1990's, after a long period of military rule, Ghana became a democratic state. Since then, it has been regarded as one of the most stable African democracies.

### Population

30.42m. Over the last three decades, Ghana's urban population has more than tripled rising from 4 million to nearly 14 million people and outpacing rural population growth.

### Access to Internet

10,110,000 Internet users. 33.6 per cent of the population. Ghana was one of the first countries in Africa to connect to the Internet. Ghana offers a fairly limited access to 3G networks.

### Operators in Market

There are a great many locally based operators. In addition offshore operators target the market. Betway, Supabets, sportybet.com Mybet, Premier Bet

## Online Gambling Legislation

Online gambling is legal and regulated by the Gaming Commission of Ghana. Ghana's sports gambling laws rules are currently being updated. Most of the focus is in on the online sector for now. The rapid increase of many land based betting companies namely Supabet, Mybet, Premier Bet, means that spots betting in Ghana already has a strong presence. Mybet Ghana already has 140 betting shops and has been present for as far back as 1998. In February gaming Commissioner, Peter Mireku, announced that the commission was seeking to introduce tighter regulations over the online industry. At the same meeting Mireku announced that it would sanction all operators in the gaming industry who failed to comply with the Gaming Act including sports betting operators.

## Guinea

### Government

The President of Guinea is both head of state and head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly. President Alpha Condé was re-elected to a second term in office with 57 per cent of the vote in October 2015. In May 2018, President Condé announced a cabinet reshuffle and appointed Kassory Fofana as Prime Minister. Presidential elections are due in 2020.

## Population

13,398,180

### Access to Internet

1,602,485. 12.0 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

No locally developed sites. Offshore operators present

### Online Gambling Legislation

Gambling in Guinea is legal but no rules in place when it comes to online gambling.

## Guinea-Bissau

### Government

The 2010 election ushered in civilian rule, but led to violent ethnic clashes as well. Led by Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the current government is the fifth Guinea-Bissau has had since elections in 2014. The politics of Guinea-Bissau takes place in a framework of a semi-presidential representative democratic republic in transition, whereby the President is head of state and the Prime Minister is head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National People's Assembly.

### Population

1,953,723

### Access to Internet

120,000. 6.1 per cent of the population.

### Operators in Market

No locally developed sites. Tolerated.

### Online Gambling Legislation

Unregulated



# Western Africa



## **Liberia** **Government**

In the 1990s Liberia was involved in a long-running, civil war and its role in a rebellion in neighbouring Sierra Leone. It has suffered considerable political unrest. Liberia's first democratic transfer of power in over 70 years, followed the election of George Weah (of the Coalition for Democratic Change) as president in December 2017. Liberia is a presidential representative democratic republic modelled on the government of the United States.

**Population**  
4,977,720

**Access to Internet**  
4,028,418. 80.9 per cent of the population.

**Operators in Market**  
Tolerated.

### **Online Gambling Legislation**

In 2016 the gaming industry was expanded to include various forms of betting including sports betting with the passage into law of a regulatory Act called "Gaming Regulation 001" However the act does not cover online gambling.

## **Mali** **Government**

Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly.

**Population**  
19,689,140

**Access to Internet**  
12,480,176. 63.4 per cent of the population.

### **Operators in Market**

Tolerated

### **Online Gambling Legislation**

Illegal

## **Mauritania** **Government**

Presidential republic. The Parliament has one chamber. Since gaining its independence from France in 1960, the country has seen 10 coup attempts. In August 2005 the 'Military Council for Justice and Democracy' seized power in a coup d'état. The Military Council appointed a transitional government and undertook to return the country to democracy by March 2007. Prior to the coup, President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya governed from 1984, first as head of a military junta, and from 1992-2005 as head of an elected civilian government. A new constitution was approved by 97 per cent of voters in a referendum in June 2006.

**Population**  
4,661,149

**Access to Internet**  
810,000. 17.4 per cent of the population.

### **Operators in Market**

None.

### **Online Gambling Legislation**

Gambling is illegal in Mauritania but no specific laws in place banning online gambling. However gambling rules are heavily enforced.

## **Niger** **Government**

Niger is rated by the UN as one of the world's least-developed nations. Niger has undergone a series of coups and suffered political instability following its independence from France in 1960. The President of Niger is head of state and the Prime Minister of Niger head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly.

**Population**  
23,176,691

**Access to Internet**  
951,548. 4.1 per cent of the population.

### **Operators in Market**

Tolerated

### **Online Gambling Legislation**

Not regulated

## **Nigeria** **Government**

The federal government is composed of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, whose powers are vested by the Constitution of Nigeria in the National Assembly, the President, and the federal courts. The National Assembly of Nigeria has two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate.

In May 2015, Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in as President. Buhari has distanced himself from military rule, promising to

