

Bloom off the Rose?

Everybody's heard that African economies – well, many of them, anyway – have been on a growth tear since the turn of the millennium. Meanwhile, the quality of governance in Africa (as measured by the average score of 50-plus countries between 2000 and 2008 on the highly respected Ibrahim Index) followed along. Yet since 2008, this average score has hardly budged – a troubling trend that may presage economic troubles ahead.

What's happened? The index is composed from 93 indicators that fit broadly into four categories: human development, participation/human rights, safety/rule of law, sustainable economic opportunity. The first two are still trending upward, but safety and economic opportunity are both slipping. Happily (or unhappily, depending on which countries you're rooting for), there's a lot of variation on the list. All of the data used in the index, by the way, can be downloaded free from the index website.

COUNTRY	2015 SCORE	CHANGE SINCE 2011	COUNTRY	2015 SCORE	CHANGE SINCE 2011
Mauritius	79.9	-0.7	Madagascar	49.1	+2.8
Cape Verde	74.5	-1.9	Mali	48.7	-8.1
Botswana	74.2	-1.8	Ethiopia	48.6	+3.4
South Africa	73.0	+0.9	Comoros	8.5	+0.9
Namibia	70.4	+2.0	Niger	48.4	-0.6
Seychelles	70.3	-0.8	Togo	48.4	+4.0
Ghana	67.3	-0.4	Côte d'Ivoire	48.3	+8.5
Tunisia	66.9	+2.6	Djibouti	45.9	+0.5
Senegal	62.4	+4.5	Cameroon	45.9	-1.3
Lesotho	61.1	+2.2	Burundi	45.8	+1.2
Rwanda	60.7	+2.9	Nigeria	44.9	+0.9
Zambia	59.5	+0.5	Guinea	43.7	-0.1
São Tomé & Príncipe	59.1	+0.7	Mauritania	43.0	+0.1
Kenya	58.8	+4.3	Congo	42.8	+0.6
Benin	58.8	-0.2	Angola	40.8	+0.2
Morocco	57.6	+3.4	Zimbabwe	40.4	+4.6
Malawi	56.7	-0.2	Guinea-Bissau	35.7	-3.2
Tanzania	56.7	-1.0	Equatorial Guinea	35.5	-0.7
Uganda	54.6	-1.3	Libya	35.5	-2.4
Algeria	52.9	+1.4	Democratic Republic of Congo	33.9	+0.1
Mozambique	52.3	-2.2	Chad	32.8	+0.5
Burkina Faso	52.2	+0.3	Eritrea	29.9	-0.4
Gabon	52.2	+1.2	Sudan	28.3	+0.4
Egypt	51.3	+0.5	Central African Republic	24.9	-8.4
Sierra Leone	51.0	+0.7	South Sudan	19.9	-9.6
Liberia	50.7	+0.9	Somalia	8.5	+1.2
Gambia	50.5	-1.7	Average Score	50.1	+0.2
Swaziland	49.6	+0.7			

SOURCE: Mo Ibrahim Foundation