



SECURING AFRICAN BORDERS: SOLUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR SAFER BORDERS

Border security remains one of the most pressing security challenges for much of Africa, thanks to the prevalence of long, porous borders between countries and multiple sources of unrest, violence and criminality. From terrorist groups to diamond smugglers and wildlife poachers, the illegal activities of a complex web of subversive actors pose a severe threat to the security of Africa's borders and the interiors that lie beyond.



The following country snapshots provide an illustrative overview of the border threat landscape present throughout much of Africa, as well as recent efforts to curb such threats and the security gaps that need to be filled with the most relevant and cost-effective security solutions.





AFRICAN BORDER SECURITY SNAPSHOT BY COUNTRY

Country:	Persistent border threat types and security issues:	Recent solutions and security investments:	Key solutions needed:	Overview:
BOTSWANA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poaching activities, particularly ivory poaching Drug trafficking Precious and semi-precious stone smuggling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: BDF (Botswana Defence Force) purchased fourteen “Bat Hawk” light surveillance aircraft for airborne anti-poaching patrolling. Its roles include reconnaissance and surveillance, carcass location, fence checks, aerial photography, surveys, water-point and rare species monitoring and scientific and research data collection. May 2016: BDF invested \$179 million in 45 Piranha 8x8 armoured fighting vehicles with 30mm cannon turrets for border patrolling and potential peacekeeping operations. October 2017: Government of Botswana announced defence and security sector as one of five priority spending areas for the 2018/19 budget, focusing on upgrading equipment, training as well as construction of more security and accommodation facilities for the police force. Feb 2018: The governments of Namibia and Botswana signed an historic Boundary Treaty designed to end the years-long string of fatal shootings along the border of the two countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated border security C4I capabilities All-terrain ground mobility assets and air surveillance assets – drones or light reconnaissance aircraft Upgraded border security and surveillance posts 	<p>Botswana enjoys a long record of stability and good relations with its neighbours, particularly since the signing of the meditated boundary treaty with Namibia. This has allowed the BDF to refocus its efforts on combatting criminal activities along its borders, with a particular focus on stopping illegal wildlife hunting.</p>
KENYA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movement of Al-Shabaab terrorists through porous borders Kidnappings of aid workers and tourists near Somali border Armed banditry Corruption of border guards and officials Ivory smuggling Poaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout 2017: Kenyan Police and border security forces received hundreds of new/donated 4X4 landcruisers and APCs. October 2017: Rural Border Patrol Unit renamed Border Police Unit, with plans to double its strength to 6,000 officers. April 2018: Construction is suspended on 700km, \$1.38 billion Kenya-Somali border wall. June 2018: Kenyan Police force acquired one SW-4 and two AW139 helicopters at a combined cost of \$39 million. June 2018: Kenya's military spending budget passes \$1 billion mark September 2018: Kenya Defence Force takes delivery of eight Fennec light helicopters from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for ongoing operations against Al-Shabaab. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border guard training and anti-corruption initiatives Re-equipping and professionalisation of border security forces Modernisation efforts of expanded Border Police Unit Further expansion of mobility assets – helicopters, 4X4s and APCs, etc 	<p>Between 2008-2015, Kenya suffered 272 attacks of varying severity from terrorist group Al-Shabaab. Ongoing efforts to contain the threat posed by the group – as well as bandits, smugglers and poachers – are being bolstered by new security investments. The Kenya-Somali border wall has achieved limited success, though work on the Kenya-Somalia border wall was suspended in April due to tensions around the fate of houses on the border as well as concerns about the wall being used by corrupt officials as a vehicle for siphoning off funds. This highlights the issue of relying too heavily on static defences if the military and political will to man them effectively is lacking. Elsewhere, more mobile assets and capabilities have enjoyed great success at countering terrorist/criminal elements along African borders.</p>




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CHAD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism activities – Boko Haram, ISIS-West Africa, ISIS-Libya, al-Qa'ida affiliated groups • Kidnapping for ransom • Illegal migration and human trafficking • Smuggling of weapons and narcotics • Mines along Chad-Libya border 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2018: Contractors sought for new command and control (C2) centre in N'Djamena. • June 2018: Bilateral security cooperation agreement signed between Chad and Sudan. • August 2018: New command post for G5 Sahel multinational force to be established at Wour, in the northwest of the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger border control apparatus complete with effective screening processes for terrorist affiliations • Expansion of observation and surveillance capabilities of border security forces to counter highly mobile and dispersed criminal/terrorist actors • Demining solutions along Chad-Libya border 	<p>Boko Haram and other terrorist groups have terrorised inhabitants of the Lake Chad region for years, killing tens of thousands and slipping through Chad's border areas seemingly at will. Its border regions also experience prevalent kidnappings for ransom and smuggling activities. An elevated government and multinational security response is beginning to take effect, based on greater international cooperation and aid.</p>
MAURITANIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorist activities – Islamic State, Mali-based militants and home-grown jihadi sympathisers • Kidnapping for ransom/ political purposes • Illicit goods smuggling through desert border region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2017: China's Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group began building 1,750 tonne landing ship for Mauritania to use in maritime surveillance and patrols. This follows the 2016 commissioning by Mauritania of two Chinese patrol vessels at a cost of \$42 million. • February 2018: Additional \$500 million pledged by international donors to support G5 Sahel Force. • August 2018: US Air Force preparing to produce Basler BT-67 turboprop aircraft for Mauritanian Islamic Air Force (FAIM) in an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative command and training programmes to optimise G5 Sahel Force effectiveness • Multi-layered intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities • Light reconnaissance aircraft/UAV solutions for supporting desert region border patrols • Advanced maritime and coastal surveillance solutions 	<p>Mauritania's long border with Mali link it inextricably to the unrest of the Sahel states, prompting its participation in the G5 Sahel Force. Securing the Sahel region is of utmost importance to Mauritania's border security, particularly as terrorist activity is on the rise in 2018 after almost a decade of near passivity.</p>

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NIGERIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorist activities – particularly Boko Haram • Herdsmen border killings • Illegal immigration and human trafficking • Arms, narcotics and precious stones smuggling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2017: Ongoing upgrades and officer training implemented for Nigeria's electronic MIDAS (Migration Information and Data Analysis System). • August 2017: \$593 million sale of 12 A-29 Super Tucano aircraft, along with weapons, spares and training, to Nigeria approved by US State Department. • March 2018: Nigeria's federal budget allocated over \$2 million for new production lines for Beryl M762 and AK-47 assault rifles, as part of ongoing efforts to upgrade Nigerian army and security forces' infantry weapons. • September 2018: Proforce confirmed that the latest Ara (4x4) mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle is in production. Nigerian border security forces will make use of its cross-country mobility and all-round protective qualities. • September 2018: The Nigerian Navy commissioned six new Ocea fast patrol boats capable of boosting the navy's interdiction capabilities, helping them tackle a widening range of maritime security threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment, training and equipping of 20,000 border security personnel over next 10 years. • Retraining of current Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) personnel to latest border security management tactics and best practice. • Further upgrading and expansion of MIDAS programme, along with enhanced C4I solutions at all border entry points and command posts. • Continued elevation of mobility capabilities – further investment in recon aircraft, drones and all-terrain land vehicles. 	<p>Nigeria continues to elevate its military and political response to Boko Haram, with border control remaining one of its greatest challenges. Combined with smuggling activities and persistent herdsmen disputes that frequently turn fatal, Nigeria's large, porous borders remain contested.</p>
NAMIBIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism • Illegal immigration and people trafficking • Drug trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2017: Namibia procured 8 APCs and assorted equipment worth \$4.5 million from South African defence industry contractors. • September 2017: World-class border management system unveiled at Hosea Kutako International Airport. Delivered by Gemalto, the system features biometric scanning systems and document verification technology designed to counter terrorism, illegal immigration and people trafficking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading of border posts with advanced scanning equipment to counter smuggling operations • Increased procurement of APCs, infantry weapons and support equipment for border patrols • Procurement, maintenance and associated training for UAVs deployed in border surveillance activities 	<p>Namibia has begun a technological investment programme to help secure its borders against both new and perennial threats it faces. Illegal immigration and narcotics trafficking are two particular areas of focus, as drugs worth \$35 million have been discovered in multiple seizures at airports and border crossings since 2017.</p>

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SOUTH AFRICA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International terrorism activities Smuggling of illegal arms and narcotics Illegal migration and movement of people Maritime piracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late 2015: South African National Defence Force (SANDF) became the launch customer for the Seeker 400 UAV from Denel Dynamics. October 2017: South Africa's Department of Defence (DoD) announces plans to raise its annual budget by 12.8% over the medium term to hit \$1.27 billion by 2019-2020. Priority border protection asset acquisition plans include infantry combat vehicles, inshore and offshore patrol vessels over the coming years. November 2017: SANDF receives 375 modified Toyota Landcruisers for border protection duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued equipment and logistical support for 22 companies to adequately defend SA land border, including greater access to aerial surveillance, lightly armoured vehicles and C4I technologies. 8-10 dedicated Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) for maritime patrol duty, supported by helicopter and UAV cover. Improved radar coverage of SA land border. 	<p>Observing and protecting a 4,862km land border shared with six different countries and covering extremely rugged terrain presents South Africa with a severe ongoing challenge. Similarly, the 2,789km-long maritime border must be defended against the predations of pirates and smugglers, as well as monitored for illegal migration activities. The country's strengthening economies and close ties to the West are also increasing its risks of being targeted by international terrorist groups. Subsequently, the myriad threats faced by South Africa require a substantial investment in land, naval and air-based resources.</p>
GHANA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal immigration Smuggling of arms, narcotics, gold and other illicit goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2018: Ghanaian Government allocated \$164 million to upgrade the equipment and capabilities of the Ghana Police Service. Drones, helicopters and advanced surveillance equipment were cited as procurement priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically-placed static border defences including fencing and observation/surveillance support. Improved port and land border surveillance and scanning capabilities. 	<p>Though much more secure than many of its neighbours, Ghana still experiences persistent security threats as its under protected land borders and deep water ports facilitate the movement of weapons, drugs, precious metals, counterfeit goods and other illicit commodities. In early 2018, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation Professor Frimpong-Boateng estimated that gold smuggling alone costs Ghana \$30 billion per year.</p>
ALGERIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrorist activities – ISIS (Daesh) Movement of armed jihadi groups Drug trafficking Illegal goods smuggling Illegal migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early 2017: Algerian government increased defence budget to \$1 billion, a 176% rise since 2004. October 2017: Algeria begins construction on high tech wall on Morocco border. The wall will feature advanced camera and radar systems. February 2018: Algerian authorities announced plans to build a further 10 new posts along the Algeria-Morocco border to help counter smuggling operations. May 2018: August 2018: Unofficial report released stating that Algeria and Tunisia have agreed to establish 60 observation posts along their shared border. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction, equipping and maintaining of new border observation/surveillance posts 	<p>Despite long-standing drug trafficking and gun-running activities, the 6,734km of land borders that Algeria shares with seven other states are among the most stable and secure in the region. The massive overhaul and modernisation of the People's National Army (PNA) in recent years and its subsequent investment in border protection duties has made a significant dent in criminal activities and barred terrorist groups like IS from gaining a foothold in Algeria. Further solidifying of the borders continues in the form of expanding border walls and establishing dozens of new outposts.</p>

Join us at the 2nd edition of the **Africa Border Management & Security EXPO** (20-21 November 2018, Johannesburg, South Africa) and directly meet with senior decision makers responsible for border security from armed forces, police, airports, border guards and ports in Africa who will be attending to discuss how they can work together and create an integrated border management system as well as review solutions to the challenges of border security.



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