

Africa Gambling Outlook

2019



NIGERIA

Gambling in Nigeria is restricted at federal level and no specific regulations exist for online gambling at this stage.

KENYA

A draft law re-regulating the gambling framework in Kenya is currently pending before the parliament. If passed, it will expressly regulate online gambling and introduce supplier licensing in the country.

UGANDA

There is currently an ongoing political and religious debate on the perceived high number of minors accessing gambling. As a result, in May 2019, the minister of finance urged the National Gaming Board (NGB) to immediately stop issuing gaming and betting licences.

GHANA

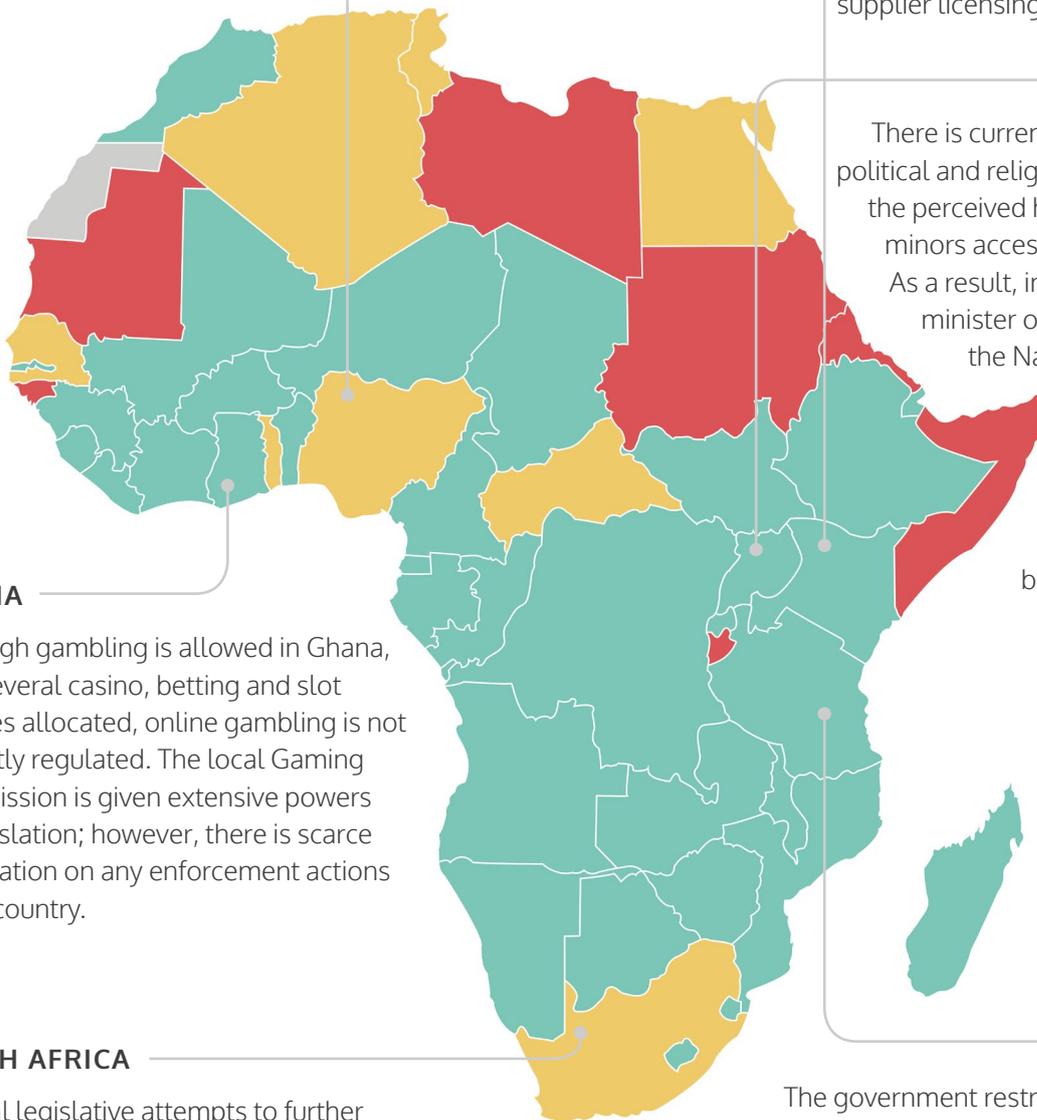
Although gambling is allowed in Ghana, with several casino, betting and slot licences allocated, online gambling is not explicitly regulated. The local Gaming Commission is given extensive powers by legislation; however, there is scarce information on any enforcement actions in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA

Several legislative attempts to further restrict online gambling and payment transactions of unlicensed operators have been postponed in recent years. However, some legislators and regulators at provincial level have called for a less restrictive regime.

TANZANIA

The government restricted gambling advertising as of January 2019. Additional measures to ensure responsible gambling and revenue collection to the state budget are on the agenda.



● PERMITTED

● PARTIALLY PROHIBITED

● PROHIBITED



In 2019, Africa is undoubtedly one of the regions attracting the most interest from stakeholders in the gambling industry from all over the world.

From a macroeconomic perspective, this is firstly related to general economic figures from the continent and the potential of the African market. According to the latest data provided in 2018 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Africa has tripled its GDP since 2000, with a growth of +4.6 percent year on year compared with +2.8 percent of Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, extreme poverty levels decreased from 45 percent in 1990 to 35 percent in 2013, although considerably more people are living below the current international poverty line of \$1.90.

A common factor across Africa is the political volatility that marks out the continent, and especially Western, Central and Eastern Africa. Political choices are also often influenced by different religions and consequently by the respective religious institutions.

It is possible to group the 55 African countries on the map by non-local language. Although there is a strong predominance of French speakers in Western and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa are characterised by the adoption of English as the official language. Northern countries are predominantly Arabic speakers, while only a few countries, namely Angola, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, have adopted or kept Portuguese as the official language.

Narrowing down the analysis to the gambling industry, the geographical and linguistic distinctions also reflect the levels of prohibitions on games of chance in Africa. As made evident by the map, restrictive or prohibitive gambling regulatory regimes tend to be concentrated above the equator, with only two exceptions. As a general trend, GamblingCompliance observed that English-speaking countries appear to be more permissive towards games of chance than the French, Arabic and Portuguese jurisdictions.

The African gambling market's potential in the coming decades is evident when we consider that only seven countries (namely, Burundi, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Mauritania, Somalia and

Sudan) out of Africa's 55 countries forbid all forms of gambling. For instance, in North Africa, even some countries where we could expect a full prohibition due to the religious influence, such as Egypt, allow some form of gambling or allow foreign players to gamble.

It is interesting to note that online gambling is currently explicitly allowed or regulated in less than 20 percent of the African jurisdictions, leaving great potential for future regulatory developments in the sector.

The gambling sector in Africa is also characterised by the high penetration of mobile money payments systems, originally implemented as a solution for the extensive unbanked population across the continent. Despite being an effective and easy way of transferring money, mobile payment systems have their downside from a know your customer (KYC) perspective, especially for gambling services, where the age verification process is not considered to be sufficiently strict to prevent minors from placing bets.

However, despite the large presence of mobile gambling, land-based gambling still plays an important role, as a significant number of players are not yet exposed to smartphone technology and still conduct transactions in cash.

For a broader overview of the gambling industry in Africa, please visit the In Focus section of GamblingCompliance's website.

A new 2019 Africa Outlook, which will focus on six jurisdictions that are the most relevant for the gambling industry on the continent — Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda — will be published later in July 2019 on GamblingCompliance's website. The outlook will provide our clients with an overview of market data and the most important regulatory developments and foreseeable changes in these countries.

To find out more, please contact us at info@GamblingCompliance.com.



About GamblingCompliance

GamblingCompliance is the leading provider of independent legal, regulatory and business intelligence to the global gambling industry.

Trusted by leading names all over the world, we power more informed understanding and effective decision making.

Our independent analysis of legal and policy developments provides the comprehensive coverage gaming industry professionals need to understand what regulatory changes mean for your business opportunities.

Based in London, Washington, D.C. and Taipei, GamblingCompliance's team of in-house analysts and journalists boast an unrivaled network of contacts among policymakers, lobbyists and legal experts, as well as a wealth of experience to analyse regulatory change as it affects all sectors of the gambling industry.

[Find out more at GamblingCompliance.com](https://www.gamblingcompliance.com)

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