

GHOST OPS

A MODERN COVERT OPERATIONS RPG



AFRICA

J A CUMMINGS

Multi-System Sourcebook

This is a multi-system sourcebook and can be used for both Savage Worlds and the Original version of Ghost Ops.

When Savage Worlds system rules are used the text will be red, this is to separate the two versions within the text without the need to rewrite or do separate books.

All characters, organisations and conflict are fictional unless otherwise stated or are common knowledge historically or socially.

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Introduction

The fool speaks, the wise man listens
Ethiopian Proverb



Africa, the Dark Continent - home of 1.2 billion people and just as many myths, clichés and misconceptions. There are 54 separate nations here, along with two disputed sovereign states and nine dependent territories. Colonialism and the slave trade are both still alive and well. Religious wars and politically motivated bloodshed are a constant. Disease, unrest and hunger are persistent problems, and if that weren't enough, there are dozens of animals more than happy to make a meal out of some unwary humans.

Africa. The place where the first protohumans scampered around Olduvai Gorge. The place where Egypt rose to blinding heights while Europeans were still squatting in caves. The continent with the largest unbroken volcanic caldera in the world (Ngorongoro Crater). The continent with the largest free-standing mountain in the world (Mount Kilimanjaro). The home of the longest river in the world (the Nile). The home of the largest hot desert in the world (the Sahara). The biggest, baddest, most complicated and most heartbreaking place on the planet.

All 54 recognized states are members of the United Nations, and all of them want the attention of the International Covert Operations Unit.

As Operators, you're going to be spending a lot of time in Africa. You might as well get settled in and get familiar with the place. You're in for a hell of a ride.





Nature

Wisdom is like fire. People take it from others
Hema (DRC) Proverb



The first thing you need to know about Africa is that it has almost every ecosystem in the world. It's just missing the arctic, but even then, there are permanent snows on Kilimanjaro. The majority of the continent is desert in the north, grasslands and savannah in the central and southern regions, and everywhere else is a mix. You'll find grasslands butting up against jungles that open out onto beaches that look resort-ready. If you can imagine it, with very few exceptions, you'll find it here.

Most of the countries north of the Sahara have familiar northern hemisphere weather patterns, with all four seasons present and accounted for. South of the Sahara, there are two seasons: rainy and dry. These seasons fall at different times in different geographical locations, so advance planning is vital for any operation to succeed.

The weather is subject to regional variations. North Africa has an arid desert climate, with high temperatures during the day, temperatures below freezing at night and in the mountains, and very little precipitation. Equatorial West and Central Africa are subject to monsoons and are hot all year round, with high humidity and heavy seasons rains. East Africa has distinct dry and rainy seasons. Southern Africa is usually more temperate.

There are constant variations, though, and Africa's weather, like everything else about the continent, likes to keep you guessing. Namibia shares a border with South Africa, one of the more temperate countries on the continent, is one of the most arid regions on Earth. Morocco is part of North Africa, but in the winter, it receives enough snow in the High Atlas Mountains that there are ski resorts in operation there.

Weather

In North Africa, there are four seasons. The winter months, November to March, are the wettest, with the driest months falling from June to September.

East Africa's dry season is from July to September. Northern Kenya and Tanzania have two rainy seasons, one from April to June and the other from October to December. The rainforests of Rwanda and Uganda are subject to torrential floods during these rainy months.

The Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti) have mixed weather patterns. Most of Ethiopia has two rainy seasons (February to April and mid-June to mid-September), but some parts of the country almost never see any rain at all. There is also little rainfall in Somalia and Djibouti, except in the mountains of Somalia, which are drenched during the rainy season.

Southern Africa has a dry season from April to October, when it's almost always sunny, dry and cool, with the exception of the Western Cape, which is at its wettest during those months. The Southern African rainy season runs from November to March, during which time the region is hot and humid.

Western Africa is always humid, with a dry season from November to April. During this season, dry wind from the Sahara (the harmattan) affects the region. The southern portion of Western Africa has two rainy seasons, April to July and September to October. The northern portion has one, and it lasts from July to September.



Wildlife

One of the things that Africa is best known for is its wildlife. The diversity is staggering. There are 876 different species of dragonfly alone. 3000 different types of fish have been catalogued in the continent's lakes and streams, and Africa has over 100,000 different kinds of insects. There are 2600 bird species, 1100 mammals, and nobody seems to know exactly how many reptiles. If you go on an operation in Africa, chances are that the local wildlife will impact your plans.

We're going to list the ten deadliest animals in Africa, but remember that there are scores of animals there, and most of them will want to kill you.

Deadliest Animals:

Hippopotamus

Hippos kill more people every year than any other animal. They are territorial, especially when they have young. They can run at speeds of over 20 miles per hour, and they have canines that are up to 20 inches long and boast bite strength of up to 2,000 PSI.

See the Threat
chapter pg 69 for
stats etc.

Mosquito

Mosquitoes spread diseases like malaria and dengue fever. Malaria alone kills over a million Africans a year, mostly children under the age of five. The disease is spread by the female *Anopheles* mosquito, which is most active at dawn and dusk. There are over 3500 different species of mosquito, and they almost all can carry and transmit disease. They swarm, bite, buzz and generally make life miserable, but they only have a two-week life span. They breed in stagnant pools, so try not to allow any standing water to accumulate near your camp.

Elephant

Elephants are rarely encountered outside of wildlife reserves, but when they are, things can quickly get hairy. African elephants are aggressive, especially older bulls and young males in musth. Most of the time, elephants kill people by trampling them to death. In places where poaching is common, the animals are even more aggressive. They're intelligent and remember human faces. It's a bad idea to make an enemy of an elephant.

Black Mamba

Black Mambas are one of the most feared snakes in all of Africa. They're not actually black in color, but rather dark brown/olive in tone. They're called black mambas because that's the color of the insides of their mouths, which they display when threatened. They can reach speeds of 12 mph/20 kph and have been known to chase people. They are the largest venomous snake on the continent, reaching up to 2.5 meters on average. They live in savannah, scrub, hollow trees, bushes, and sometimes in people's houses. It can strike up to 12 times, and each bite delivers venom, which is a neurotoxin and cardiotoxin. One bite releases enough venom to kill a dozen men in less than an hour. The poison attacks the central nervous system and

immediately starts shutting down major organs. Within twenty minutes of being bitten, people lose the ability to talk. After one hour, victims are comatose, and after six hours, unless they receive the antivenom directly into their bloodstreams, the victim is dead. Fatality in the absence of antivenom is 100%, and many people have anaphylactic reactions to the antivenom and die anyway. Thousands of people die because of black mamba bites every single year.

Nile Crocodile

Don't be fooled by the name. The Nile Crocodile can be found in every river in Africa, and many of the continent's lakes. They kill hundreds of people every year, most often when they're bathing, washing clothes or collecting food on river banks and lake shores. Fishermen are especially frequent targets. The crocodile is an ambush hunter and kills by grabbing their prey and dragging them under the water to drown. They also roll their bodies – the “death roll” – to tear off pieces of flesh or to break the bones of their prey.

Great White Shark

Most Great White shark attacks take place off the coast of South Africa, where more than 200 humans have been killed. Attacks are rare, but when they happen, they're deadly. Surfers and swimmers are at special risk. Great Whites strike their prey from directly beneath them, moving with great speed. They take a single bite and then drag their victims down into deeper water, sometimes shaking them as they go. They then release the wounded creature and allow it to bleed to death so that the shark can eat it at leisure once it's expired.

Lion

Lions live in protected areas across sub-Saharan Africa. There are hundreds of people killed each year by lions, usually sick or aged lions who can't hunt more challenging prey. Lion attacks have begun to increase in Tanzania and Mozambique. Usually lions don't show a preference for humans as prey, but there have been documented examples of lions who hunt humans deliberately, choosing them over more customary prey animals. The most famous of these were the lions of Tsavo, who were the subject of the movie *The Ghost and the Darkness*. The taxidermized bodies of those man-eaters can be seen at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Puff Adder

Of all the snake-related deaths in Africa, most of them can be blamed on the puff adder. They are relatively short, stocky animals, only reaching about one meter in length, but they are camouflaged to blend in no matter what environment they're in. They can be found throughout Africa, except for rainforests and deserts. They have long, hollow and recurved fangs, and their venom is strong enough that it can kill a grown man with a single bite. They rely on their camouflage for protection if approached, and they will lie still and hope humans and other predators don't see them. For this reason, they are often stepped upon, which leads to defensive bites. Apart from the danger of the venom, if bites aren't treated properly, they are prone to developing sepsis and gangrene.

African Rhino

Rhinos are endangered, and they are frequently the target of poachers. They are huge (nearly 6000 lbs when fully grown) and they used their horns to kill or injure any creature who is threatening them or their young. They'll do the same to you if you're only annoying it. They are

short sighted and foul tempered, and woe betide anyone who gets between a mother rhino and her baby.

Disease

There are a number of ways to die in Africa, and some of them are on the microscopic level. This is a list of some of the diseases you might encounter. Many of these can be prevented by vaccines, which you will be supplied prior to any operation.

Malaria - spread by mosquitoes

HIV/AIDS - spread by contact with blood, semen or other bodily fluids

Dengue fever - spread by mosquitoes

Tuberculosis - caused by bacteria

Cholera - caused by bacteria in dirty water

Yellow fever - spread by mosquitoes

Dysentery - can be caused by bacteria, virus, parasites or protozoa

Sleeping sickness - spread by tsetse flies

River blindness - spread by black flies

Pneumonia - can be bacterial, viral or fungal

Syphilis - spread by contact with blood, semen or other bodily fluids

Meningococcal meningitis - caused by bacteria

Tetanus - caused by bacteria

Whooping cough - caused by airborne bacteria

Measles - caused by virus

Ebola haemorrhagic fever - caused by virus

Marburg haemorrhagic fever - caused by virus

Lassa fever - caused by virus carried by rats

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever - spread by ticks

Human monkey pox - caused by virus

Plague - spread by fleas

Chikungunya - spread by mosquitoes

See Core Rules for dealing with disease.





Nations

*In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges and the
foolish build dams.*

Nigerian Proverb



Africa is home to over 13% of the world's population, and there are 700 culturally distinct tribes and groups. In the Sahara, the inhabitants are mostly Berbers and Arabs. Farther to the south are the Fulani, Galla, Hausa, Ibo, Masai, Mossi, San, Yoruba and Zulu. There are also a large number of expatriate Europeans, Chinese and Indians.

Naturally, these people don't always get along. They rarely do. There are wars, tribal disputes, border conflicts and general interpersonal nastiness all across the continent... just like on every other continent on earth. Where humans go, trouble follows.

African nations are insecure and their governments are subject to frequent and rapid change. With the exception of South Africa, every country is industrially underdeveloped. Almost all African economies are dependent upon agriculture and mining, with some lucky countries gaining an influx of money from ecotourists (who cause problems all their own). Rampant colonialism has left scars on African land and psyches that are still felt to this day.



Algeria

Capital: Algiers

Official Languages: Berber & Arabic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1962

Current government dates from 2002. Algeria is frequently involved in disputes with neighboring Morocco, most involving their shared border and disagreements over where that border should be. Algeria has amassed a powerfully-equipped military thanks to their very close ties with Russia, something that has made Morocco very nervous. Within the country, there are strong limitations on freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. Trade unions are harassed by the government and prevented from holding meetings.

Angola

Capital: Luanda

Official Language: Portuguese

Religion: mostly Christianity (primarily Catholic and Baptist)

Colony of: Portugal until 1975

The current government dates from 2010. There were political purges as recently as 2017, and the government is violently anti-Muslim, closing mosques and madrasas by force.

Benin

Capital: Porto-Novo

Official Language: French

Religions: Christianity, Islam, Vodun

Colony of: Belgium until 1958

The current government dates from 1958, making it the most stable government on the continent. Benin is currently involved in border disputes with Burkina-Faso over the ownership of two separate villages. It is also dependent upon Nigeria for most of its exports.

Botswana

Capital: Gabarone

Languages: English, Setswana

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Great Britain until 1964

The current government dates to 1964, when Botswana won its independence.

There have been marked human rights abuses committed against the San tribe. Botswana's military have never fought a conventional war.

Burkina Faso

Capital: Ouagadougou

Language: French

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1960

The current government dates from a coup d'état in 2015. Slavery is still a thriving institution, with many children being kidnapped and sold. Journalists are regularly murdered to silence them, and the country is perpetually on the edge of famine. Burkina Faso is currently involved in border disputes with Benin.

Burundi

Capital: Bujumbura

Languages: Kirundi, French, English

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Belgium until 1962.

The current government dates from independence, but there has been unrest since 2015. Many groups involved in the conflict, which is sometimes politically motivated and sometimes based on racial hatreds, have been accused of committed human rights abuses. The number of charges against Burundi were so great that the country voluntarily exited the International Criminal Court in 2017. Torture, extrajudicial killing, rape as a weapon of

war, sexual humiliation and enforced disappearances continue unabated.

Cabo Verde

Capital: Praia

Languages: Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole

Religion: Christianity (Catholic)

Colony of: Portugal until 1975

The current government dates to 1990.

Cabo Verde is a halfway point for cocaine traffickers moving their product from Colombia to Europe. The UN and other interested parties have frequently led crackdowns on the drug trade

Cameroon

Capital: Yaoundé

Languages: French, English

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: France until 1960.

The current government dates to 1982, when the sitting president was “elected.” He has since been “re-elected” in voting that has been universally dismissed as rigged. The government is known to be extremely corrupt. Prisons are hellishly overcrowded and undersupplied, and the police torture suspects, homosexuals and political activists as a matter of course. Cameroon had a border dispute with Nigeria that was settled in the international court in Cameroon’s favor. The country hosts many refugees from the Central African Republic, Chad and Nigeria, and has joined with Chad and Nigeria to declare war on the Islamic extremists operating in the region.

Central African Republic

Capital: Bangui

Languages: French, Sango

Religion: Christianity (Protestant), with frequent violence against the Muslim minority

Colony of: France until 1960.

The most recent government imploded in 2004 and was replaced by ethnic and religious cleansing campaigns. Witchcraft is a capital crime in the CAR penal code, and many women and children are killed annually after being named as witches. The police routinely rape, torture and beat prisoners and suspects. There is frequent mob violence (usually on an ethnic and religious basis), and slavery, human trafficking, child labor and enforced female genital mutilation are constant problems. Bandits from the CAR often cross into Cameroon to kidnap Cameroonian citizens for the slave trade.

Chad

Capital: N'Djamena

Languages: Arabic, French

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1960

The president of Chad has held office since 1990 despite the fact that his term limit passed in 1994. There is a great deal of political unrest, with three separate rebel groups functioning in the country, one of whom is infamous for gunning down civilians from a helicopter. There are hundreds of thousands of Sudanese and CAR refugees in Chad, but they are underserved. International aid workers are frequently kidnapped, never to be seen again, or killed.

Comoros

Capital: Moroni

Languages: Arabic, French, Comorian

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1975

Since independence from France, the Comoros (which is a nation made up of archipelagic islands) have endured 20 coups and assassinations of heads of state. A new constitution was drafted in 2009. One of the islands of the Comoros, Mayotte, has declared independence from the rest of the nation, but so far, the declaration has been ignored.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Capital: Kinshasa

Languages: French, Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili, Tshiluba

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Belgium until 1960.

The country has been in a state of ruinous civil war since 1996. The rebels, the various ethnic and religious armed militias and the DRC army itself commit so much rape and sexual slavery that the DRC is called the “rape capital of the world”. Refugees stream out of the DRC almost daily, and the country’s infrastructure has been gravely damaged.

Cote d’Ivoire

Capital: Yamoussoukro

Language: French

Religion: Sunni Islam and Christianity

Colony of: France until 1960

The current government was put in power in 2011 by the joint forces of France and the United Nations when those organizations put an end to a brutal civil war. The war so severely damaged the country that its infrastructure and economy have yet to recover.

Djibouti

Capital: Djibouti

Language: French

Religion: Sunni Islam

The current government has been in existence since 2000, the result of a power-sharing agreement that ended the civil war that began in 1990. The illegal arrest of political opponents of those in power has continued with little abatement, with several political prisoners dying as a result of beatings that were administered in prison. Djibouti is currently involved in territorial disputes with Eritrea.



Egypt

Capital: Cairo

Language: Arabic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: Great Britain until 1952

The current government seized power in 2014. It is ostensibly a secular government, but more and more, Sharia law rules the day in criminal matters. Thieves' are cut off, people are caned for immodesty, and leaving

Islam (apostasy) is punishable by death. Egypt is very enthusiastic about meting out capital punishment, usually in public.

Equatorial Guinea

Capital: Malabo

Languages: Spanish, French, Portuguese

Religion: Christianity (mostly Catholic)

Colony of: Spain until 1968

The country is saddled with an authoritarian government. The same man, a cruel dictator, has been in power since a coup in 1979. Equatorial Guinea has been called “the worst of the worst” by the United Nations in regard to its human rights record. The government itself is said to have a hand in the kidnapping and sex trafficking of women and children.

Eritrea

Capital: Asmara

No official languages

Religion: Christianity and Sunni Islam

Declared independence from Ethiopia in 1993

Eritrea has never held an election. The government is a one-party affair with one of the worst human rights records in the world. The country is currently involved in border disputes with Djibouti and Yemen, and Eritrea and Ethiopia play a constant game of brinkmanship and are perpetually on the edge of war.

Eswatini

Capital: Mbabane

Languages: Swazi & English

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Great Britain until 1968

Eswatini is currently governed by a constitutional monarchy. It has never been involved in any foreign wars

and is quiet and stable, although there is a significant HIV/AIDS epidemic. More than 64% of all deaths in Eswatini are caused by this disease.

Ethiopia

Capital: Addis Ababa

Language: Amharic

Religion: Christianity (Ethiopian Orthodox) and Sunni Islam

The current government was established in 1991. The Ethiopian authorities have been accused of many human rights abuses, including opening and deliberately shooting political activists and protesters and relocating indigenous tribal groups by force. More than 69% of all marriages in Ethiopia begin as kidnappings.

Gabon

Capital: Libreville

Language: French

Religion: Christianity and indigenous animism

Colony of: France until 1960

Gabon is a major oil-producing country, but one-third of its population live in desperate poverty. Income disparity is striking, and France has called for and is leading investigations into political corruption. The last election in 2016 was considered suspect, but no recount was possible because the faction that declared victory destroyed all of the ballots.

Gambia

Capital: Banjul

Language: English

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: Great Britain until 1965

The current republican government was founded in 1970, replacing a brief monarchy. Gambia left the

Commonwealth in 2013 but petitioned for re-admittance in 2017. There was a failed coup in 2006, for which the government blames neighboring Senegal, which totally engulfs Gambia. This is a tiny country, occupying a strip around the Gambia River that is only 31 miles (50K) at its widest.

Ghana

Capital: Accra

Language: English

Religion: Christianity with sizeable Sunni Islam minority

Colony of: Great Britain until 1957.

The current republic dates to 1992. Ghana is a major narcotics transshipment port, with shipments arriving from Central and South America and being sent out to Europe. Witchcraft is a legal offense, and there is a Witch Camp in the north of the country where over 1,000 women are incarcerated and subject to torture and sexual exploitation.

Guinea

Capital: Conakry

Language: French

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1960

The current republic dates to 2010, when it was established after a military junta lost power. Ghana is the scene of intense ethnic fighting between the Fula and Malinke tribes, and its government is riddled with corruption. Many mining contracts have gone to foreign companies with ties to the President's family and friends. There are serious epidemics of Ebola, HIV/Aids, malnutrition and malaria, and 98% of Guinean women have endured FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).

Guinea Bissau

Capital: Bissau

Language: Portuguese

Religion: Christianity and Sunni Islam

Guinea Bissau was once part of the Kingdom of Gabu in the Mali Empire and was once a thriving player in the slave trade. Today the country is largely peaceful, with only occasional ethnically-based land disputes. The country's major challenge is on the healthcare front. There are only 5 doctors per 100,000 people, and HIV/AIDS, cholera and malaria are rampant.

Kenya

Capital: Nairobi

Language: English, Kiswahili

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Great Britain until 1963.

In 2007, following a disputed election, violence erupted that claims the lives of over 1,500 people and internally displaced 600,000 more. Things have calmed since then, but there is a regular undercurrent of tension. The Kenyan police are known to openly execute suspected drug runners and gang members in the street, and political dissidents are frequently made to disappear. There are tensions with nearby Somalia and the Islamist groups based there that make frequent forays into Kenyan territory. The majority of the country's economy is based on ecotourism. There are many game preserves with the "big five" of African megafauna: lions, leopard, buffalo, rhinos and giraffes. There are also many poachers who are not averse to murdering anyone who witnesses their activities. Rich tourists attract kidnap-for-ransom gangs and sex traffickers. 90% of the prostitutes in Kenya are between the ages of 9 and 17.

Lesotho

Capital: Maseru

Languages: Sesotho, English

Religion: Christianity (Protestant)

Colony of: Great Britain until 1966.

HIV/AIDS is the biggest problem that this tiny country faces. More than 50% of women under the age of 40 are HIV positive, and 23.6% of the general population also carry the virus. Culturally, there is acceptance of rape (61% of all women have been raped; 22% of the rapists are police officers). Wife beating is considered just a part of marriage, and child labor is everywhere.

Liberia

Capital: Monrovia

Language: English

Religion: Christianity (Protestant)

The country was founded by freed slaves from the United States who were brought back to Africa by the African Colonisation Society in 1822. Liberia declared its independence in 1847, and the current regime and constitution date from 2006. There are many armed groups operating in Liberia, most of whom obtain their wealth through illegal timber operations, the mining of “blood diamonds,” and from hunting endangered species as part of the bushmeat trade. The government is known to be corrupt. Liberia is considered to have one of the highest incidences of sexual violence (rape, sexual torture, sex trafficking) in the world.

Libya

Capital: Tripoli

Language: Arabic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Since 2014, Libya has been torn by an active civil war. The most violent groups are the Islamic extremists

and international terrorist organizations, which like to conduct gruesome public executions of their prisoners (kidnap victims as well as prisoners of war from the other warring factions). There is a serious problem with journalists and NGO workers being targeted for killing and worse.

Madagascar

Capital: Antananarivo

Languages: Malagasy, French

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: France until 1960.

Unlike most countries in Africa, Madagascar has a good human rights record. Its government was put in place following a coup in 2009 but has been stable since then. This island nation boasts many plant and animal species that are found nowhere else on earth, but these same species are threatened by poaching and deforestation.

Malawi

Capital: Lilongwe

Languages: English, Chichewa

Religion: Christianity with a large Sunni Muslim minority

Colony of: Great Britain until 1964.

The government of Malawi, which has been in power since 1994, is marked by corruption, repression, and police brutality. Malawi has the highest rate of child marriage anywhere in the world, and it still conducts literal witch hunts. There are many high-risk infectious diseases that are endemic to the country, including schistosomiasis, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, plague and rabies.

Mali

Capital: Bamako

Language: French

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1960

The country is riven by conflict. There are three factions in the current war, and all of them use child soldiers. The government frequently kills suspected political activists without the nuisance of actual criminal proceedings. The militias in the north go hunting for local officials using high-powered rifles. Islamic extremists in the central region have imposed Sharia law on the population and who their wars by kidnapping foreigners for ransom.

Mauritania

Capital: Nouakchott

Language: Arabic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1960

The current government was established by a coup in 2008. Since then, Sharia law has been put into effect, and the death penalty is generously doled out for apostasy, blasphemy and homosexuality. Slavery is a thriving industry. The desert is expanding, reducing the country's ability to farm and feed its people. Famine is anticipated in the next 10 years.

Mauritius

Capital: Port Louis

Languages: English, French

Religion: Hindu

Colony of: Great Britain until 1968.

The republic was founded in 1992 and has strong ties to the EU, China and India. There is a flourishing heroin trade, and tourists flock to the country for the beaches and the smack. The penal system is harsh, and anyone

who is suspected of wrongdoing can be detained for up to two years before being charged with any crime.

Morocco

Capital: Rabat

Languages: Arabic, Berber

Religion: Sunni Islam

French and Spanish protectorate until 1956.

There is active repression of free speech, the press, and the right to assembly and association. It is illegal to preach or speak in support of any faith but Islam, and the punishment for this is imprisonment for up to 15 years. There is a strong tourism industry, fueled by the ancient Roman and Islamic ruins, the market at Marrakech (where you can buy literally anything) and plentiful hashish and cocaine.

Mozambique

Capital: Maputo

Language: Portuguese

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Portugal until 1975.

The current democratic government has been in place since 1993. Since 2013, though, armed insurgents have taken control of the northern territories of the country, and refugees from this area have fled to Malawi. Government forces have retaliated against the rebels by burning villages, summary executions, and encouraging sexual violence by its soldiers. Corruption is rampant, and public funds have been drastically depleted by government officials.

Namibia

Capital: Windhoek

Languages: English, German and Afrikaans

Religion: Christianity

Declared independence from South Africa in 1990.

The primary difficulties in Namibia are caused by poor hygiene, as exemplified by the “flying toilets” - plastic bags into which people defecate, and which are then flung into the bush. The usual diseases have resulted from what the UN has called “a sanitation crisis.”

Niger

Capital: Niamey

Languages: French, Arabic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1960

The 7th Republic was founded in 2010, taking over from a military dictatorship. Niger has an ongoing border dispute with Benin, and it is desperately overpopulated and beginning to suffer from food insecurity. Famine is not far away. Education is not valued in Niger, and over 71% of the population is illiterate.

Nigeria

Capital: Abuja

Language: English

Religion: Christianity, Sunni Islam

Colony of: Great Britain until 1960.

Nigerian democracy dates from 1999, but it's on a short tether. Islamist groups have taken control of the northern territories of the country and apply strict interpretations of Sharia law. There are ongoing serious human rights abuses by all sides (Islamists, ethnic groups and government troops). Over 15,000 children have been accused of witchcraft, branded with hot irons, and sometimes killed. There is a serious organized

crime syndicate operating in Nigeria, running drugs and weapons, and pirates attack commercial shipping from the coast.

Rwanda

Capital: Kigali

Language: Kinyarwanda, English, Swahili and French

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Belgium until 1962.

Rwanda was the site of a horrific incidence of genocide in 1990, and reparations are still being arranged for the victims. The new constitution was ratified in 2003, and since then, the government has been largely transparent and law-abiding. There is very little corruption, and the economy is beginning to boom, thanks to major investment from China.

São Tomé and Príncipe

Capital: São Tomé

Language: Portuguese

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Portugal until 1975

This tiny country (1000 square kilometers/386 square miles in total area) has been a democracy since 2006 and has strong ties to the US and the EU.

Senegal

Capital: Dakar

Languages: French, Wolof

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1960

There are ongoing clashes in the southern half of the country between government forces and armed separatist groups. Despite its own unrest, Senegal is host to over 30,000 refugees from Mauritania.

Seychelles

Capital: Victoria

Languages: English, French

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Great Britain until 1976

This tiny nation, which consists an archipelago in the Indian Ocean, has been a democracy since 1991. Culturally, it is a matriarchy, and men are obligated by law to support their offspring on pain of prison sentences. The Seychelles are a tourist haven. The government is heavily involved in the international effort to stop Somali piracy.

Sierra Leone

Capital: Freetown

Language: English

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: Great Britain until 1961.

Sierra Leone is a failed state that has been embroiled in civil war since 2014. There is still conflict, and several of the militias fund their endeavors through the mining and sale of “blood diamonds.” The British army was sent to evacuate foreigners at the start of the war, but the commanders on the ground found it necessary to take on the rebels and beat them back. The current relative peace for the civilian population is due in no small part to the continued presence of soldiers from the UK.

Somalia

Capital: Mogadishu

Languages: Somali, Arabic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Somalia is another failed state. There are four different armed groups, all of them different brands of Islamic extremists, who are fighting for control. All of them make use of child soldiers. Before the war, the majority of the population made their living by fishing; now those same

people have converted their fishing fleet into pirate ships and have been terrorizing the Indian Ocean. There is virtually no government, no health care, and no police. Violence and human rights abuses of all kinds are a normal part of life here, and 97% of all women in Somalia have endured FGM.

South Africa

Capital: Praetoria

Languages: 11 official

Religion: Mixed

Colony of: Great Britain until 1931. A republic was founded in 1961, and the current constitution has been in place since 1991.

Since the end of Apartheid, the South African murder rate has soared, and rape is not far behind it. All of the citizens who can afford it live in gated communities with private security guards - the private security industry in South Africa is the largest in the world. There are over 400,000 registered private security guards in the country, more than the number of South Africans in the country's armed forces, and 9000 security firms. An unknown number of foreign security firms are also present. Despite this, 80% of South African women report having been raped, and 1 in 4 South African men admit to having raped someone. Because of the lawlessness that has swept through the country, mob violence and lynching are becoming commonplace, including the terrible form of murder called "necklacing", in which rubber tyres are placed around a bound person's neck, filled with petrol, and then set alight. Death always comes with necklacing, but it doesn't come quickly.

South Sudan

Capital: Juba

Language: English

Religions: Animism, Sunni Islam

Independence declared from Sudan in 2011.

South Sudan is a failed state that has been in civil war since 2013. Among the widespread gross human rights violations are the use of child soldiers, brutal retaliation against supporters of rival factions, torture, extrajudicial killings, kidnapping, human trafficking and sexual violence. There are so many ethnic disputes and hatreds that some experts believe that South Sudan will be the site of the world's next genocide.



Sudan

Capital: Khartoum

Languages: Arabic, English

Religion: Sunni Islam

Independence from Egypt was declared in 1956. The current constitution was ratified in 2005.

Among the many reasons Sudan is not a good holiday destination are widespread persecution of Christians, the forced enslavement of over 200,000 people (and

counting), armed attacks on civilians, homosexuals sentenced to brutal forms of death, child soldiers, rape gangs, and the humanitarian disaster that is Darfur. Over 2 million people have died since 1990 from civil war and famine. Sudan is also being watched as the potential home of the next genocide to blight the world.

Tanzania

Capital: Dar es Salaam (de facto); Dodoma (de jure)

Language: Swahili

Religion: Christianity, with Sunni Islam a close second

Colony of: Great Britain until 1961.

The Republic of Tanzania was created in 1961, but it wasn't until 1992 that more than one political party was allowed to function. There are ongoing border disputes with Malawi. Individuals with albinism are accused of witchcraft and are often attacked and killed. Their supposedly magical body parts are harvested for use in spells and talismans by practitioners of muti, African traditional medicine.

Togo

Capital: Lomé

Language: French

Religion: Indigenous animism

Colony of: France until 1960.

Since independence was declared, all power has been held by one family. There has been an increasing amount of unrest as a result, with many citizens seeking to force democratic reforms. The government has cracked down severely, and many human rights abuses have been committed by the Togolese security forces. The security forces would be better served by watching their country's neighbor, Nigeria, because human traffickers have made a habit of crossing over the border and kidnapping Togolese men to be sold as slave labor in fields and minds. Togolese

women are also kidnapped and end up as unwilling maids or sex slaves.

Tunisia

Capital: Tunis

Language: Arabic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Colony of: France until 1958.

The Tunisian Revolution of 2011 was the start of the so-called Arab Spring, when popular reform movements began to gain ground throughout the Islamic world. In Tunis, the two most controversial reforms were changes to the law. Domestic violence was outlawed for the first time in any Islamic country, and law permitting a rapist to avoid punishment by marrying his victim (with or without her consent) was struck from the books. In the northern area of Tunisia, Islamic separatists and other extremists have begun to operate in concert with international terrorist forces.

Uganda

Capital: Kampala

Languages: English, Swahili

Religion: Christianity

Colony of: Great Britain until 1962.

Uganda's current government, which was established in 1986, has joined with more or less every other country on the continent by enacting virulently anti-LGBT laws. The hacktivist group Nameless has begun to shadow and expose local government officials in response to these draconian measures. In the highlands, violent rebel groups operate with links to international terrorist organizations. Uganda has an interest in maintaining peace in the area, and they have deployed soldiers in Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and South Africa. At the same time, the country has received 190,000 refugees from those same countries.

Zambia

Capital: Lusaka

Language: English

Religion: Christianity (Protestant)

Colony of: Great Britain until 1953.

The republican government of Zambia was established in 1965 and almost immediately began to persecute government critics, both real and perceived. The country's libel laws are used like a bludgeon to silence free speech and the news media. Despite this, Zambia is a popular ecotourist destination. The country boasts many wildlife preserves as well as the spectacular Victoria Falls. If ecotourism is the country's number one economic engine, then ecotourist kidnapping is number two.

Zimbabwe

Capital: Harare

Languages: 16 official languages

Religion: Christianity (Protestant)

Colony of: Great Britain until 1965.

The current Zimbabwean republic was founded in 1980. Due to the President's severely useless land reforms, famine has hit the people hard, and there has been a near-total economic collapse. Nearly two million people have perished as a result, and an additional 3.4 million Zimbabweans are currently refugees in South Africa and Botswana. In addition to the economy, healthcare has completely gone off the rails. Every hospital in the country has been closed and children are going without vaccines. Poverty is more the rule than the exception.





The Human Factor

A man who uses force is afraid of reasoning
Kenyan Proverb



In a continent as vast and as populace as Africa, it's almost impossible to list all of the factions and groups that will potentially impact your operations. The following is a list of those regional players that we feel will be encountered most often, or most significantly.

Rebels and Insurgencies

The Popular Forces of Uganda (PFU): The Popular Forces of Uganda began in 2009 in response to a power imbalance in the region. The then small group were hardly heard of and were mainly involved in small tribal conflicts. Then, in 2009, the leader, Jean-Baptiste Okeke, decided they would take the out the largest tribal presence in the region while it was in a position of flux.

By 2011, Okeke and his militia had grown into a serious threat, armed by Libya and various other rogue states as well as arms dealers like John Logan with the Blackwood Group. They began to sweep across Uganda, grabbing land, hijacking aid convoys and even successfully attacking a UN compound in order to steal two helicopters and a number of armed vehicles.

Recently Okeke has been taken on more child soldiers and has also begun distributing drugs in order to control the Ugandan people and weaken any resistance. They have committed various massacres and are negotiating with other African militia in Liberia and the Republic of Congo to create a new African government.

Jean-Baptiste Okeke - *Ace*/HVT
PFU Force - Militia

The Martyrs of God: This radical Islamist group first appeared on the international scene when they staged a daring kidnapping in Abuja in 2012, seizing fourteen foreign nationals and absconding into the jungle with them. Of the fourteen, eleven were found dead three months later. Three remain missing.

The Martyrs of God are dedicated to the destruction of all faiths but Islam, and of all Muslims they consider to be insufficiently devout. They have grown from a handful of armed bandits to an organized force of unknown proportion. Their base is somewhere in the rainforest of Central Africa, which makes them exceedingly difficult to locate.

What is known is that they get their orders from Mullah Ibrahim al-Hamadi, who issues fatwas and commandments via the internet from a hidden location. Al-Hamadi is a 52-year-old Jordanian who spent twelve years in Nigeria as a diplomat. He was implicated in a smuggling and piracy ring that preyed on European merchant ships, striking from a base on the Slave Coast. An international group closed the net on his operation, but Al-Hamadi escaped.

The Martyrs of God are led on the ground by Nyamu Babatunji, a veteran of the Nigerian army who spent time fighting with peacekeeping forces in the Somali Civil War of 2009. Babatunji and al-Hamadi have forces active in Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Congo.

Nyamu Babatunji - Ace/HVT
Martyrs of God fighters - Militia

The Brass Lions: Civil war began in Sierra Leone in 1991, and the Brass Lions were at the forefront of the carnage. They began as an intimidation squad that was organized to prevent people from voting for a particular political party, but once they got a taste of power, they began to take control of villages and several of the country's diamond mines. They forced men to labor by mutilating the families of any who resisted; children and babies had their limbs amputated by machete, a tactic that had been previously employed by the Belgians in the Congo. It was as effective as it was brutal, and soon the Lions' mines were producing up to \$12,000,000 of diamonds annually. These diamonds were sold on the black market, and the money was rolled back into the Brass Lions' efforts to take and hold more land and more mines.

Today, the Brass Lion diamond and gold mines are worked by approximately 2500 slave laborers whose toil is guarded by men armed with AR-15s and Vektor R4 assault rifles. These guards are there to protect the valuable products of the mines, but they're mostly there to make sure none of the workers try to escape. Slaves who attempt to run are shot dead and dumped in the bush.

The Brass Lions are led by Solomon Bangura, a hardened 32-year-old soldier who has been in the Lions since he was 10 years old. He was the child of an important political rival to President Emil Koba who was taken from his family's home in Freetown. He hopes to one day take all of Sierra Leone, one mine at a time, and force the government to step down. He blames Koba for everything he has suffered, and he has made it known that he intends to personally behead Koba with his own machete.

Bangura's two closest associates are Abdul Sesay and Saa Koroma, men he has known since childhood. Their loyalty to Bangura is absolute, as is his to them. They act as his generals when the Lions go into battle, which they have done recently. They are preparing to make a move on a bauxite mine in Moyamba which is currently under the control of Sierra Resources, the third largest employer in the mining industry, owned by McMartin Freetown Industries out of Glasgow, Scotland.

Solomon Bangura – Ace/HVT

Abdul Sesay – Major

Saa Koroma – Major

Brass Lions – Militia

Criminals and Cartels

Warlords: The Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo are plagued by sectarian violence as pick-up militias and glorified mobs of Muslims and Christians tear each other apart. There are two warlords of special concern in the region: Mamadou Botende (Muslim) and Cesar Mutombo (Christian).

Botende and his Muslim forces burn Christian villages, abduct the children and women into slavery, and burn the men in their churches as apostates. Mutombo, not to be outdone, burns Muslim villages, rapes the women and girls and shoots the men and boys. It is Mutombo's aim to "breed out" the Muslims in the Congo by force.

The Christian forces number about 900, and the Muslims about 760 following a disastrous clash in the jungle. As each side commits atrocities, more locals volunteer for revenge duty, and the situation is quickly spiraling out of hand.

Religious wars are expensive, and both Botende and Mutombo have turned to trafficking humans and narcotics to fund their activities.

Recently, a secular peace envoy was sent by Pax International to arrange negotiations between the two sides. The chief negotiator, Sir Charles Stewart-Mott, was kidnapped almost as soon as his feet touched the ground in the DRC, along with three bodyguards and a secretary, Hermione Little. The corpses of the bodyguards were found in the bush, but no sign has been found of Sir Charles or Ms. Little. No ransom demands have been received at Pax International's headquarters, and they fear the worst

Organized Crime (Nigeria): Nigeria's capital city is home to three separate organized crime syndicates. One, the Abuja Cartel, operates a sophisticated import/export business dealing in cocaine, hashish, heroin, arms and armaments. The Green Hillmen also deal with narcotics on the streets of Abuja, and they are encroaching on the Cartel's territory. This leads to many incidents of street-level gang warfare. Meanwhile, Marjorie Akindele, called Ayaba, watches and waits. Akindele is the head of a third crime syndicate, the so-called Mothers of Mercy, who are waiting for the Green Hillmen and the Abuja Cartel to wipe each other out so they can take over the city. Unlike the other two cartels, the Mothers of Mercy do not deal in slaves, sexual or otherwise.

The Seafarers: With a fleet of former fishing boats and "appropriated" military patrol boats, the Seafarers are the most organized group of pirates in the Indian Ocean. They haunt the waters from the Horn of Africa to the Cape of Good Hope, preying mostly on merchant marine shipping. They customarily cruise in formations of two patrol boats and at least four support vessels. Tactically,

they never take on more than one target at a time, and they normally abandon pursuit if their prey puts up too tough a fight.

The Seafarers first appeared on the water in 2005, hailing from Somalia. They grew in strength as their raids succeeded, gathering ambitious young pirates and adding the ships they'd seized to their growing fleet. The exact number of vessels operated by the Seafarers is not currently known, and a joint task force based in the Seychelles has turned its attention toward stopping the group once and for all, but with only minimal success.



Security Firms, Contractors and NGOs

The Blackwood Group: Back in 2006, a prominent businessman and ex-Marine named John Logan decided to start the Blackwood Group, a private military contractor. They quickly obtained funding from the US government to protect VIPs entering Iraq and Afghanistan, which they did for a number of years without too many incidents. The Blackwood Group thrived. In 2012, Logan was accused of stealing arms from both US and Iraqi stockpiles and selling them to insurgents in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Blackwood quickly lost their contract but not the contacts Logan had made.

Since 2012, Logan has allowed Blackwood to turn into a mercenary group, working across Europe and Middle East, Africa and Asia, selling arms and their military trained personal to the highest bidder. They have committed what some claim are war crimes working in illegal diamond mines in Liberia and Sierra Leone as enforcers and guards, working as Death Squads in South America and arming militias and organised crime families in Ukraine and Serbia.

Currently John Logan is wanted by the FBI for gun running, by the DEA and Interpol for supplying protection for drug dealers in Europe, and by various countries for a number of serious crimes and even an attempted act of genocide.

John Logan - Ace/HVT
Blackwood Merc - Merc

Earth Watch: Formed in 2011 by retired US Navy SEAL Dan Hope, Earth Watch is a group dedicated to protecting endangered species from poachers. There are two active chapters in operation, one in Kenya and one in Zambia. The group also has connections with other private security companies working at other wildlife preserves in South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar.

Hope runs his group like a SEAL team in the field, and they are known to use deadly force to stop poachers from killing the animals they have chosen to protect. They also periodically protect villagers from the excesses of poachers, who protect their activities by killing civilian witnesses.

Dan Hope served with the SEALs for twelve years before he retired. His team is made up of other retired American special forces operators (Green Beret, Delta Force, Army Rangers and the like). They will train locals who want to get involved, and Hope's ambition is to create an army to protect the dwindling natural resources of the continent. Earth Watch has its ears to the ground about the movements of many different smuggling operations, including drug cartels and rebel groups. They are happy to share this information with former colleagues, and they expect the professional courtesy of being left to do their work without intervention by local or international authorities.

Earth Watch has been responsible for the deaths of over 75 poachers since 2016... that we know of.

Dan Hope - Ace/Asset

Djembe Security: Based in Cape Town, South Africa, Djembe Security is one of the largest private security contractors in sub-Saharan Africa. They provide protection for the well-heeled denizens of the gated communities in Cape Town and Praetoria, and they specialize in acting as bodyguards for foreign businessmen and diplomats. The President of Djembe Security, Alex Djembe, is a former CIA informant from the days of Apartheid. He may or may not still have dealings with the Company.

Alex Djembe – Major
Djembe Security – Merc

Mercy, Incorporated: Funded by French multimillionaire Guillaume Cantigny, Mercy, Inc., is a privately owned non-governmental agency that brings medicine, vaccines and traveling clinics to areas in the grip of disease outbreaks. Currently the group has eighteen separate units in sub-Saharan Africa. Mercy, Inc., will provide treatment to anyone who needs it, no questions asked. Each traveling clinic has a standard surgery, a portable x-ray, a general surgical suite, and isolation materials in the event of highly contagious diseases like Ebola.

The director of the African arm of Mercy, Inc., is Dr Renata Camarelli, a surgeon from Rome. She is a champion organizer who does not suffer fools. Dr Camarelli specializes in stump resections and treatment of amputated limbs due to machete attacks and land mine explosions.

Pax International: An international NGO of do-gooders and white hats, Pax International sends mediators into conflict zones in an attempt to negotiate peaceful solutions to violent situations. Sometimes they're invited by the parties involved. At other times, they come

without warning, inserting themselves into an already complicated situation and making it ten times worse. They are headquartered in Brussels but have no overt connection to the EU. Rumor has it that they are a front for the CIA or other spy agencies, but thus far no proof of this assertion has been brought to light.

Nameless: Nameless is a decentralized international hacktivist group that is known for its DDOS cyberattacks against governments, government agencies, corporations, religious organizations and celebrities. They are vehemently anti-capitalist, anti-regulation, anti-corruption and anti-establishment. Usually they align themselves in support of human rights reforms, “doxing” the guilty and obtaining and then releasing previously secret documents. Their base of operations and leadership are unknown.

Recently, Nameless has begun to name and shame politicians who write or support legislation that openly penalizes vulnerable groups like the poor, women, LGBT and disabled populations. They are also beginning to target the families of covert operatives in an effort to end what they perceive to be extra-legal activities on the part of powerful governments.

A recent defector from Nameless, Ed Grant, gave himself up to the FBI in Los Angeles. He offered to turn state’s evidence in return for leniency and probation instead of jail time. He was held in Los Angeles County Jail while his plea deal was being arranged, but before it could be finalized, he was found dead in his cell. His death was ruled a suicide, although quite how someone manages to strangle himself with his own shoelaces has never been adequately explained.



Rumours and Secrets

When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled
Swahili saying



Throughout Africa, there are wonders that can drop the jaw of the most jaded of men. Some of these are natural, like Victoria Falls or the breaching Great White sharks of South Africa's Seal Island. Some are manmade, like the pyramids or Osu Castle in Ghana. Others are utterly unclassifiable and must be seen to be believed.

Djema el-Fna

In the heart of Marrakech's medina quarter (the old city), the square market called Djema el-Fna abuts the Souk, which is the main market in the city. In the Djema, purveyors of every kind of product, pleasure, vice and entertainment cluster around their stalls. There are snake charmers, henna artists, storytellers and juice and coffee stands. After dark, drummers, ladyboy dancers and pop-up restaurants selling grilled meats, bread and salad move in. The square become filled with people and smoke from the cooking fires, and it's easy to lose or make a connection in the crowd.

Everything that can be bought and sold can be bought and sold in Marrakech. If your wish is for expensive clothes, jewelry or watches, that's certainly available in the Souk. Hashish, cannabis or cocaine? Say no more. It's everywhere. The more talented and informed can also find ways to sell and purchase stolen armaments from Libya, weapons-grade plutonium, biological warheads and other dangerous toys. Sex is everywhere, and more than one Russian honeypot has snared an unwary MI-6 agent there in the Djema.

Despite being in the heart of an Islamic country, Sharia law matters little in the Souk and the Djema. Laws of all kinds are broken with abandon. If you're looking for your basic sin oasis, Marrakech is the place for you.

The Lost City of the Kalahari

In 1895, an American entertainer and diamond-trading roustabout named Gilarmi Farini, or the Great Farini (birth name: William Hunt) left Cape Town in search of diamonds and adventure. He entered the great Kalahari Desert. Six months later, he returned with tales of ancient cities engulfed by the desert sands. Heretofore known best for walking a tightrope across Niagara Falls in the United States, Farini published a book about his discovery.

Farini claimed that his discovery was one of several lost cities spoken of in the legends of the Bushmen, also known as the San tribe. According to his native sources, there were mighty cities that had been built but lost when the encroaching sands of the Kalahari swallowed them alive. The legends hinted at buried treasure and unbelievable deposits of diamonds, which was catnip for a man like Farini.

He was able to produce sketches of the ruins of the city he had discovered, and they were largely dismissed as evidence of weathering on dolerite deposits. Enough people believed what they heard, however, for the search to continue. Thirty separate expeditions have gone into the Kalahari in search of this lost city, and twenty-nine have returned empty handed. An expedition in 1964 resulted in the weathered dolerite theory to be disproved, but with no rival theory to replace it. Photographs taken of the rock formations at this time did little to quell either the dismissals or the curiosity.

The Palace of the City of the Sun

It is said that a tribe of nomads escaping the collapse of the Egyptian Empire and the last of the pharaohs came all the way south to the Valley of the Sun in South Africa. There, in the center of a valley formed by a crack in the side of a long-dead volcano, the people built a magnificent palace for their god-king.

Unfortunately for our nomads, the king offended an aged shaman, who took his revenge by casting a dire curse on the city. An earthquake shook the land and threatened the palace. The royal family were rescued, but the city was destroyed. The royal family chose to return to Egypt, and in their absence, the city was swallowed by the jungle and was lost.

Like all lost city myths, this one has an exotic locale, whispers of great stores of hidden wealth, and the spectre of a curse to make the search for the Palace inadvisable. Fairy stories about curses have never been enough to deter some adventurous souls, and even today, people set out in search of the city and the lost palace.





Issues of Note

*If the cockroach wants to rule over the chicken, then it
must hire the fox as a body-guard.*

Sierra Leone proverb



There are three issues at work in Africa that deserve a special note. These situations could pose complications for operators in the field.

Child Soldiers: In Africa and all around the world, children of both genders, sometimes as young as 7 or 8 years old, are abducted or recruited by force to join government forces or armed opposition groups. Sometimes, rarely, they voluntarily join, believing the lies that the armed groups tell at recruiting drives. They serve in the front lines as combat soldiers, or they act as spies, messengers, lookouts, and occasionally suicide bombers. Girls are often forced into sexual slavery. Child soldiers can and probably will be encountered in Algeria, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda.

Bushmeat and Poaching: Poaching might sound like a minor problem, but bushmeat is sold to consumers all over the world, and gross sales are estimated at \$50 million annually. Poachers can and do kill to protect that kind of profit. In the bushmeat industry, protected or endangered species are hunted for their meat, often using illegal techniques like snares and traps, which sometimes catch unwary humans. As a result of the bushmeat industry, there have been widespread local extinctions in Asia and Africa. Despite endangered species being protected by international law, most governments look the other way, probably because they enjoy some financial kickbacks in return for their inaction.

Africa a vast and intriguing continent - home of 1.2 billion people and just as many myths, clichés and misconceptions. There are 54 separate nations here, along with two disputed sovereign states and nine dependent territories. Colonialism and the slave trade are both still alive and well. Religious wars and politically motivated bloodshed are a constant. Disease, unrest and hunger are persistent problems, and if that weren't enough, there are dozens of animals more than happy to make a meal out of some unwary humans.

As Operators, you're going to be spending a lot of time in Africa. You might as well get settled in and get familiar with the place. You're in for a hell of a ride.



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FERAL ENGINE**