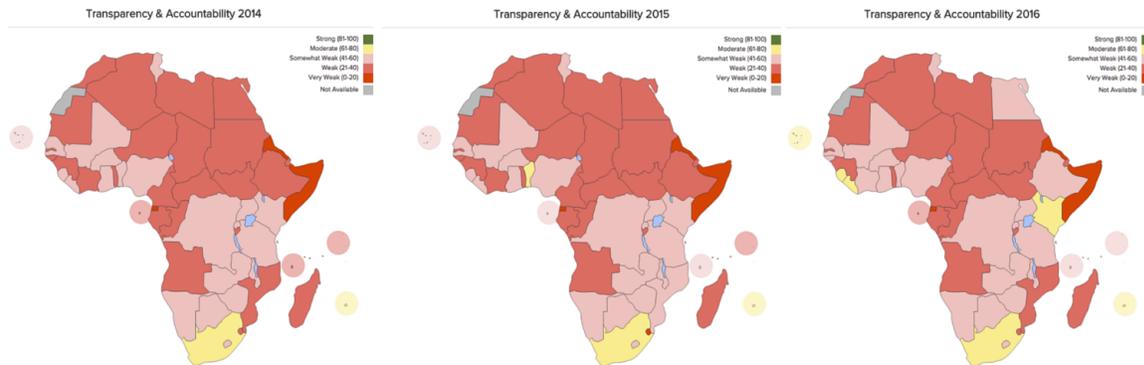


## Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



### Who is Global Integrity?

Global Integrity supports progress toward open and accountable governance in countries and communities around the world. We focus on generating research and data, supporting the work of country-level reformers, and influencing global conversations on open governance. Our work covers a number of themes, with data, learning and citizen engagement at the core of everything we do. To know more about us, visit our website at [www.globalintegrity.org](http://www.globalintegrity.org).

### What are the Africa Integrity Indicators?

In 2012, Global Integrity embarked on a five-year collaboration with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to generate the Africa Integrity Indicators (AII), which assesses key social, economic, political and anti-corruption mechanisms at the national level across the continent. Global Integrity staff recruits and manages teams of in-country contributors in 54 countries to generate original governance data on an annual basis.

The questionnaire has 114 indicators and is divided in two main categories: Transparency & Accountability and Social Development. The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information. The Social Development indicators category consists of 51 indicators about gender, rights, welfare, rural sector, business environment, health and education.

The rich data set is designed to be particularly fruitful in identifying both bright spots as well as areas for improvement at the country level. The years of data include [2013](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#); the next round of research will begin later in 2016 and be published in April 2017. To access our data, visit our project website at <http://aii.globalintegrity.org>.

Note: Each round of research is named from its year of publication. Thus, the 2016 round of research covers the period from September 2014 to September 2015, with only sources relevant to this period of study being accepted.

### Get in touch with us

Global Integrity is dedicated not only to producing high quality data, but ensuring that it is as useful as possible for reformers (both inside and outside of government) around the world. If you're interested in working with this data to identify opportunities to support open governance efforts in your country, contact us at [aii@globalintegrity.org](mailto:aii@globalintegrity.org).

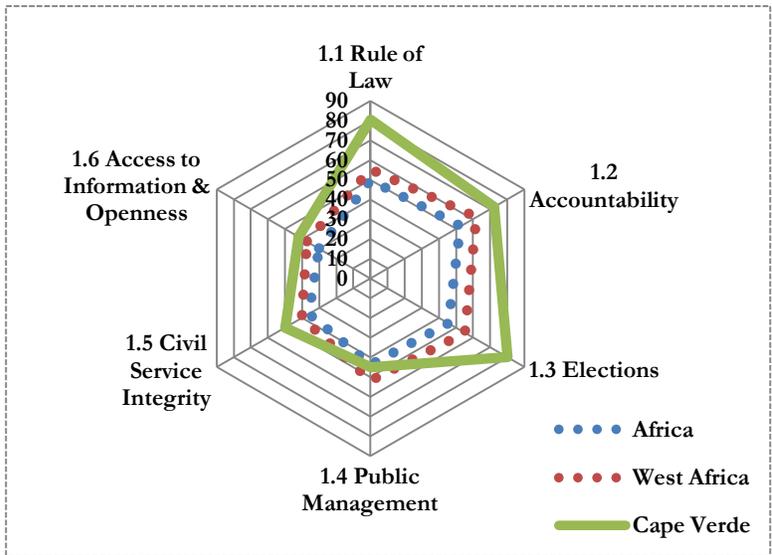
# Cape Verde – Country Findings Summary

## 1. Transparency & Accountability

The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information & openness. The indicators look into transparency of the public procurement process, media freedom, asset disclosure requirements, independence of the judiciary, and conflict of interest laws, among others.

The overall category score shows a slight change, increasing by six points from 56 in 2015 to 62 in 2016; this moves Cape Verde from the “somewhat weak” to the “moderate” area on the Global Integrity scale.<sup>1</sup> On five out of the [six subcategories](#), Cape Verde’s aggregate scores were higher than those of the West African region and the continent.

The Rule of Law subcategory score decreased by two points from 83 in 2015 to 81 in 2016, but this subcategory remains the highest performing (“strong” on Global Integrity scale). The Elections subcategory recorded the most significant score increase (+15) from 65 in 2015 to 80 in 2016, primarily due to improvements in the selection of members of the National Elections Commission. Score increases were also observed in the subcategories Civil Service Integrity, Public Management, and Accountability. The three subcategories scored respectively 50, 45 and 72 in 2016. There was a decrease in the Access to Information & Openness subcategory, which earned an aggregate score of 42 in 2016. It was also the lowest performing subcategory.



< Figure 1 > Cape Verde’s subcategory scores in comparison to the region and the continent. The radar chart depicts the country’s aggregate scores of each of the six subcategories under Transparency & Accountability, in comparison to average scores of the continent (blue dotted lines) and the country’s region (red dotted lines).

### Selected highlights

- **The judiciary operated free from executive interference.** In Cape Verde, the law establishes the separation of the judicial branch from the executive and legislative branches ([indicator 1](#)), and judges were able to assert this independence in practice during the study period. For instance, in the case

<sup>1</sup> The Global Integrity scale on the Africa Integrity Indicators website is as follows: 81-100 (Strong), 61-80 (Moderate), 41-60 (Somewhat weak), 21-40 (Weak), 0-20 (Very Weak)

where a judge ordered the detention of two senior officials of the prison administration for disobeying a court order, the Supreme Judicial Council reaffirmed the validity of this decision, despite contrary claims by the Minister of Justice ([indicator 2](#)). Judges are appointed through a competitive process managed by the Supreme Judicial Council and have tenure. No attempts were made to remove or discipline a judge without due process during the study period ([indicator 3](#)). [Indicator 4](#) reports that judges of the highest courts give reasons and reference laws for their decisions, and these decisions can be accessed by citizens in hard copy within two weeks of submitting a request.

- **Unlike other components of the judiciary, the Court of Accounts had limited autonomy.** As [indicator 6](#) notes, the Court of Accounts is by law mandated to audit public accounts. However, in practice, this court still did not have the authority to audit the Bank of Cape Verde (BCV) or the National Social Security Institute (INPS) ([indicator 7](#)). The Court also cannot audit campaign expenditures by political parties, and is not able to forward cases to the prosecutor. It can only issue an opinion regarding the General State Accounts which is submitted to the parliament. Also contrary to the competitive process observed in the appointment of judges of the higher courts, appointments within the Court of Accounts are not free from political or partisan interference. [Indicator 8](#) reports that the president of the Court of Accounts is nominated by the President of the Republic upon recommendation by the government and has usually been a loyalist of the ruling party. In addition, members of the Court were acting without a valid mandate during the study period since their term had expired. Nonetheless, [indicator 9](#) notes that the Court's processes are transparent, and in addition to annual reports, reports of the Court's plenary sessions are accessible to the public.
- **Appointments of new members to the elections commission were based on merit.** Contrary to previous study periods, where political parties failed to reach a consensus on the appointment of a new president of the National Elections Commission (NEC), new members including the chairman magistrate Maria do Rosário Lopes Pereira were appointed in May 2015. These members are reported to have met all requirements, which include a law degree and seven years of experience practicing law prior to the appointment ([indicator 20](#)). [Indicator 21](#) reports that members were protected from political interference, and that no attempts were made to remove an NEC member before the end of his/her six-year tenure.
- **Citizens' access to information was generally very limited.** Cape Verde does not have a law granting citizens the right to request public information from state bodies. In practice, [indicator 42](#) points to the difficulty citizens face in obtaining information from public entities, as most of these entities either don't have websites, or their websites are not updated. [Indicator 43](#) notes that to access legislative records online, citizens have to pay the cost of the Official Gazette, or access the paper version at the library of the national assembly. This limited access to information is also observed in the procurement sector, where [indicator 26](#) reports that apart from auditors, journalists and citizens cannot access the results and documents associated with procurement contracts (full contract, proposals, execution reports, financial audits, etc.). While annual audit reports of large state-owned companies are accessible online ([indicator 29](#)), reports regarding the exploitation of natural resources (fishing, salt, oil, etc.) are out of citizens' reach ([indicator 30](#)).

## 2. Social Development

---

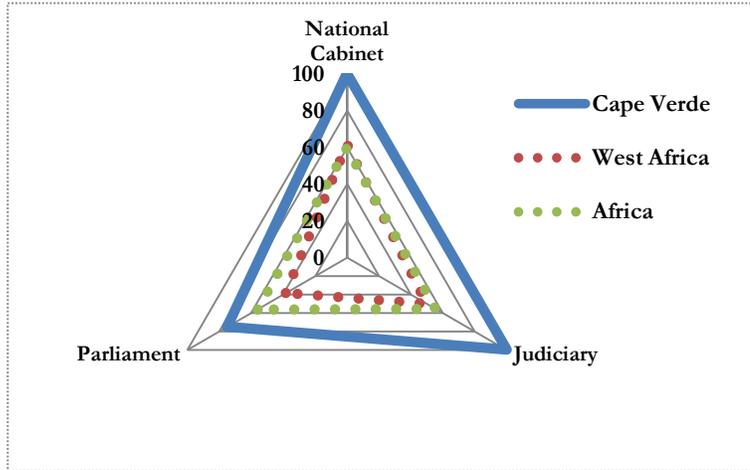
This category covers seven subcategories, including rights (civil society space and minority rights), gender, business environment and infrastructure, rural sector, welfare, health, education, and civil registration. Because the Social Development portion of the research only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, we only provide the scores for each individual indicator and don't provide aggregated category or subcategory scores. However, the individual indicators themselves contain a wealth of information across a breadth of topics, a select few highlights of which are noted below.

---

### Selected highlights

- **NGOs and unions were able to operate freely, and citizens exercised their rights to assemble without any obstacles. However, companies failed to observe labor laws.** Workers were able to organize into unions and over the study period, went freely about their activities without union leaders facing threats or intimidation ([indicator 65](#)). However, [indicator 66](#) reports that companies, mainly those in the construction and tourism sectors, but also the public administration, failed to observe labor laws, including compliance with the minimum wage, payment of overtime, protection from harassment, etc. Citizens freely associated with their peers in public and faced no restrictions in expressing dissent. In fact, [indicator 67](#) reports that after citizens demonstrated against the parliament's attempt to increase politicians' wages by 65%, the initiative was vetoed by the president. [Indicator 68](#) reports that compared to other legal entities, NGOs faced no restrictions or additional paperwork in the registration process, and that out of the estimated 700 NGOs operating across the country, none had been shut down in retribution for their work ([indicator 70](#)). There were also no cases of NGO employees being killed imprisoned, interrogated, threatened or physically harmed during the study period ([indicator 69](#)).
- **Women's rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and other civil laws, and no customary laws exist that restrict these rights.** As noted in indicators [77](#), [78](#), [79](#), [80](#), [82](#) and [83](#), there are no laws that restrict women's rights to land ownership, property, inheritance, employment, divorce petition, or independent travel. The Constitution guarantees all these rights in its articles 69 (land ownership, non-land property and inheritance), 47 (divorce petition), 51 (independent travel), 62 (employment). Additional rights are guaranteed by the Civil Code and the Labor Code. In fact, Cape Verde is one of the five African countries that scored 'Yes' on all six indicators assessing equal rights for men and women on these issues.

- Women’s representation in the highest echelons of the three branches of government is comparatively high.** As reported in [indicator 85](#), nine out of 16 members (56.3%) of the national cabinet were women. On this indicator, Cape Verde’s score of 100 was higher than the West African regional average of 62, and the continental average of 60. Women were also significantly represented in the highest branch of the judiciary, as three out of seven judges (42.9%) of the Supreme Court were women



< Figure 2 > Cape Verde’s female representation in the three branches of government compared to the country’s region and the continent.

([indicator 86](#)). Cape Verde earned a score of 100, which was higher than the West African average of 50, and the continental average score of 56. Finally, [indicator 87](#) reports that 15 out of 72 members (20.8%) of the legislature were women. The country’s score of 75 was higher than the continental average score of 56, and almost twice the West African average score of 38.

- The collection of statistics on youth unemployment is frequent. On the other hand, data on poverty is less regularly available and infrastructure-related statistics are not accessible by the public.** The National Statistics Institute (INE) collects statistics on youth unemployment on an annual basis. The published data is disaggregated by gender, age, education and locality, and is available in Excel and PDF format on the Institute’s website ([indicator 91](#)). But [indicator 92](#) reports that data on poverty is collected less frequently; through the Multi-Purpose Continuous Survey (MICS) every two years, and the Questionnaires of Basic Indicators of Well-being (QUIBB) which was last carried out in 2007. As for statistics on infrastructure (rail lines, airports, water pipes, electric grid, telecommunications towers, etc.), [indicator 93](#) reports that the INE relies on data collected by agencies that manage each type of infrastructure, and such data is not open to public access.

*The above findings capture selected highlights and are not an exhaustive analysis of the collected data. We encourage interested users to access our website [here](#) for detailed comments and sources for 114 individual indicators.*