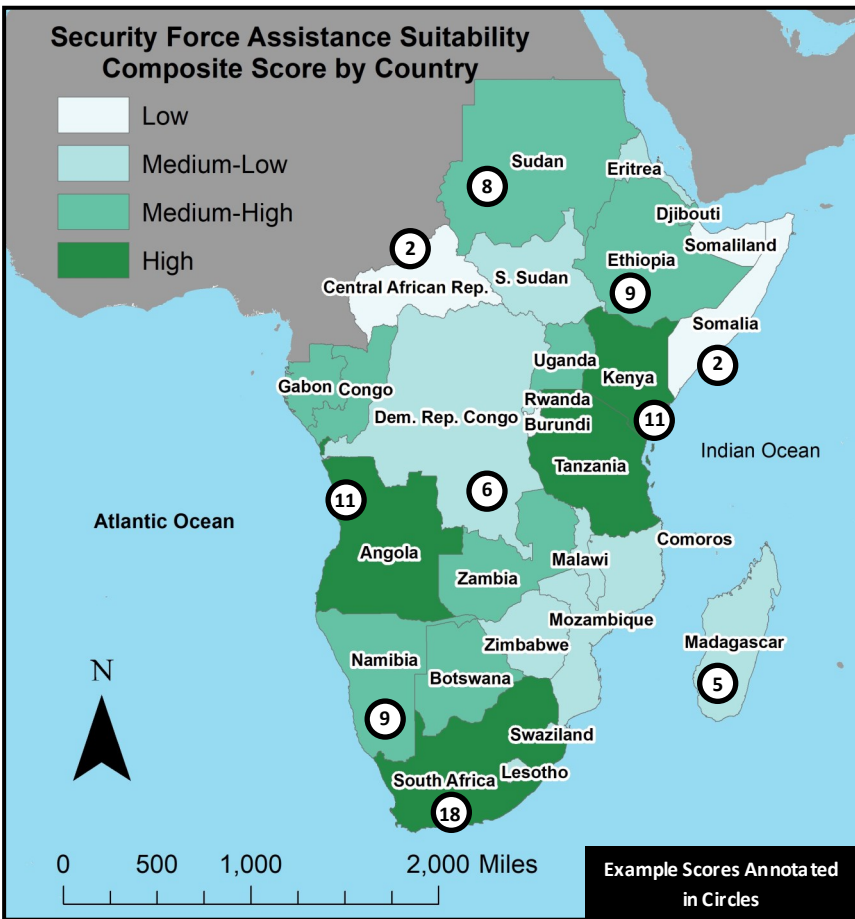
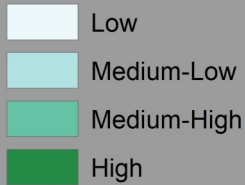


Security Force Assistance Suitability Composite Score by Country



Security Force Assistance Suitability In Southern and Eastern Africa: Revisiting American Kinetic Diplomacy

Introduction: Security Force Assistance (SFA) is the American phrase for building local capacity within partner nation military and police forces. American ground forces conduct SFA operations ranging from formal classroom instruction to tactical training. SFA is conducted both to help American partners, and to exert influence in periphery regions. Russia and some regional Middle Eastern powers also conduct SFA, as does NATO. Recently, SFA has come to be a primary operational focus within sub-Saharan Africa. SFA is strong in theory, but falls short in how to prioritize. There has been little nuanced attention towards how to refine SFA programming as well as partner selection.

The SFA suitability index conducts a composite assessment for SFA partners in Southern and Eastern Africa. By looking at a series of variables and quantifying suitability, this project recommends SFA priorities on the continent. The intended audience is American diplomatic officials and military theater-level commanders or higher. The goal is to recommend a refined, sustainable strategy.

Methodology: The primary spatial question is, "What countries in Southern and Eastern Africa are best suited for American SFA partnerships?" To answer this question, this study uses a variety of government and academic sources. Variables 1, 3, and 5 are ranked, whereas 2 and 4 are categorical 'bonus' variables that add to a country's SFA score without over-weighting the variable. The variable sources are listed in order, with appropriate acronyms, in the metadata section. The highest possible composite score is 19. The spread of scores trends heavily towards low SFA suitability, as indicated by the 'Spread of SFA Composite Suitability Scores' graph.

There are several limitations to this study. First, data for Southern and Eastern Africa is difficult to gather. Therefore, the most recent year for most variables is 2012, but it is impossible to be consistent. Additionally, this study addresses SFA from a geopolitical lens rather than a liberal internationalist lens, thereby ignoring corruption variables. There may also be an inherent bias in the capacity and GDP indices towards resource-rich countries. A refined version of this study should include corruption variables in order to distill the findings, identifying potential financial and other resource mis-management. Notably, this study does NOT include conflict data, because SFA can both be a peacetime and wartime activity—there are benefits to SFA programs at all conflict levels.

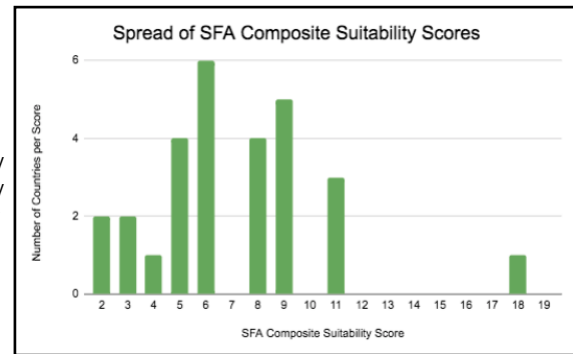
Cartographer: Dylan Farley, 1LT U.S. Army, MALD 2020

Class: DHP207: GIS for International Applications

Projection: Albers Africa Equal Area Conic

Sources: Correlates of War: National Material Capabilities (COW-NMC); Correlates of War: Defense Cooperative Agreements (COW-DCA); Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) Norwegian Institute on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT); CIA World Factbook; North Carolina State University; ESRI; Natural Earth 10

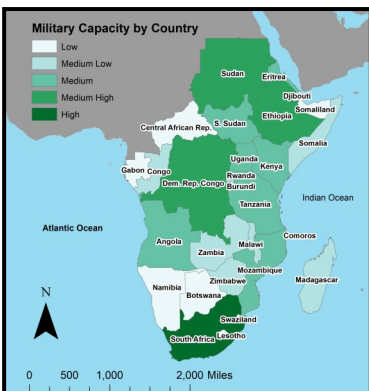
Results: American SFA efforts should be prioritized towards South Africa (score 18), Kenya, Tanzania, and Angola (each score 11). Although Kenya and Tanzania currently benefit from significant SFA relationships, South Africa has not been a primary partner since the Cold War, nor has the post-Colonial Angolan government. Additionally, the findings suggest a general futility of SFA efforts in Somalia and Central African Republic (each score 2). The large amount of low suitability SFA partners suggests that SFA is unsustainable in all but exceptional circumstances. Therefore, the recommendation of this study is for the U.S. to promote and support regional cooperation efforts such as IGAD and SADC. The U.S. should work through regional leaders such as Kenya and South Africa, and should utilize off-shore balancing as a contingency engagement method.



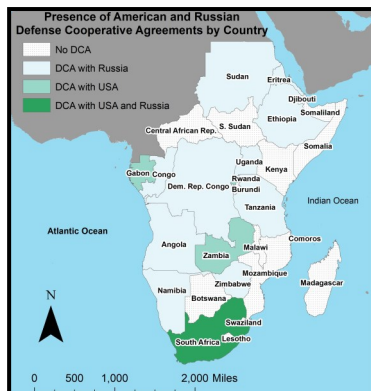
THE FLETCHER SCHOOL

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

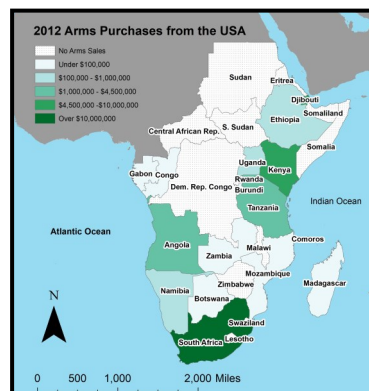
MILITARY CAPACITY



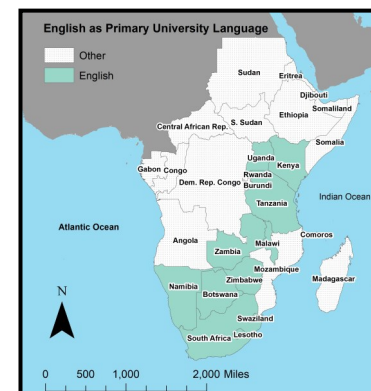
RUSSIA/USA DCA



U.S.A. ARMS SALES



ENGLISH LANGUAGE



GDP PPP PER CAPITA

