S&P Global Ratings

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Sub-Saharan Africa Sovereign Rating Trends 2017

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Sub-Saharan Africa Sovereign Rating Trends 2017

*(**Editor's Note:** S&P Global Ratings publishes a Sub-Saharan Africa sovereign ratings outlook twice a year, including rating and outlook trends as well as sovereign-specific summaries. Other regional reports cover Asia-Pacific, the Emerging Markets, the Eurozone, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa. See also our global review, "Global Sovereign Rating Trends 2017," published Jan. 10, 2017. The next sovereign rating outlooks will be published in July 2017.)*

Rating Outlook And Trends

S&P Global Ratings currently rates 17 sovereigns in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), up from 12 in 2008 and two in 2000, making Africa the fastest growing region for sovereign ratings over the last decade and a half. Overall sovereign creditworthiness in SSA has deteriorated further since our last regional publication (see "Sub-Saharan Africa Rating Trends 2016," published on July 13, 2016).

(Watch the related CreditMatters TV segment "Sub-Saharan Africa Sovereign Rating Trends 2017," dated Jan. 10, 2017.)

Overview

- We expect economic conditions for SSA economies to remain challenging in 2017, partially because of the region's high commodity dependence and relatively slow growth in key exports markets, including China and Europe.
- In 2016, the region's ratings trajectory was firmly downward. In the past six months, we downgraded four sovereigns (Mozambique, the Republic of Congo [Congo-Brazzaville], Nigeria, and Rwanda).
- Mozambique and Congo-Brazzaville faced repayment issues in 2016. We downgraded Mozambique to 'SD' (selective default) in April, before raising the rating to 'B-'. In November, we once again lowered the rating, to 'CC', due to the government once again announcing plans to restructure the majority of its commercial debt obligations, including the bond it issued in April 2016. Congo-Brazzaville also underwent a default in August as they missed the payment deadline on their bond by a few days.
- We have revised one outlook to negative from stable, on Angola, and four to stable from negative on Cape Verde, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda.
- SSA Eurobond issuance was relatively quiet in the second half of 2016, owing partially to the demand by the market for higher yields. Sovereigns with sizable local debt markets have instead increased local issuance. Nevertheless, for 2017, Nigeria already announced its intention to issue on both the international and domestic markets, and we may see Eurobond issuances from some others, including Ghana.

Of the 17 SSA sovereigns we rate, 15 are speculative grade. The exceptions are Botswana ('A-') and South Africa ('BBB-' foreign currency rating). All the speculative-grade sovereigns are now in the single 'B' category except Mozambique, which is in the 'CC' category. We currently have stable outlooks on 10 sovereigns in the region, and negative outlooks on six. Burkina Faso is the only sovereign in the region with a positive outlook.

The December 2016 supply reduction agreement by OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) and non-OPEC producers (including Russia), led S&P Global Ratings to raise our Brent crude oil price assumptions for 2017 to $50 per barrel (/bbl) from $45/bbl (see "S&P Global Ratings Raises Its Oil And Natural Gas Prices Assumptions For 2017," published Dec. 14, 2016).

Nevertheless, due to ongoing fiscal and external pressures, we took some negative rating actions in the last six months. We lowered the long-term ratings on Rwanda and Nigeria to 'B' from 'B+' in September, and also revised the outlook on Nigeria to negative from stable. We also lowered the long-term foreign currency rating on Mozambique to 'CC' in November owing to the government announcing a restructuring of foreign debt. We affirmed the local currency rating on Mozambique at 'B-'.

The last five years have been challenging for SSA sovereign ratings. Chart 2 shows how the GDP-weighted line has been affected by the recent downgrades. These were preceded by two downgrades of South Africa (in 2012 and 2014); South Africa accounted for roughly one-third of the region's GDP in 2012. The negative trend also partly reflects several new ratings (most recently on Ethiopia, Congo-Brazzaville, and the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC]), which are mostly in the 'B' category. Since December 2009 (including ratings assigned since 2009), the average rating has fallen slightly, from just below 'BB-' to closer to 'B'.

Table 1 summarizes the main strengths and weaknesses of our SSA ratings under our methodology (see "Sovereign Rating Methodology," published Dec. 23, 2014). We assess key rating factors as a strength, neutral, or a weakness in relation to the universe of all rated sovereigns (rather than just to rated SSA sovereigns).

Most SSA sovereigns have a weak institutional assessment. The exceptions are Botswana, Cape Verde, Senegal, and South Africa, which are all neutral in this regard. We also assess most SSA sovereigns' economic structure as weak, primarily because of low GDP per capita. South Africa has a comparatively advanced and diversified economy for SSA, though we now consider its economic structure to be a weakness due to current very weak GDP-per-capita growth. Botswana stands out in terms of its external performance; its external assessment is a strength. Other countries' external positions vary depending on the structure and strength of export performance and external indebtedness, among other factors.

For six of the 17 SSA sovereigns we rate, debt assessment (fiscal assessment: debt) is a strength, compared globally, in many cases because the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt-Relief initiatives in the early 2000s slashed debt stocks. However, we consider the debt burdens (and debt assessments) of Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, and Zambia to be rating weaknesses. We see fiscal assessment: budget performance as a weakness for more than four-fifths of the rated SSA sovereigns. South Africa has a long credible history of inflation-targeting and maintaining a floating currency, supporting our monetary assessment as a strength--the only such assessment of this key rating factor in SSA.

Chart 1

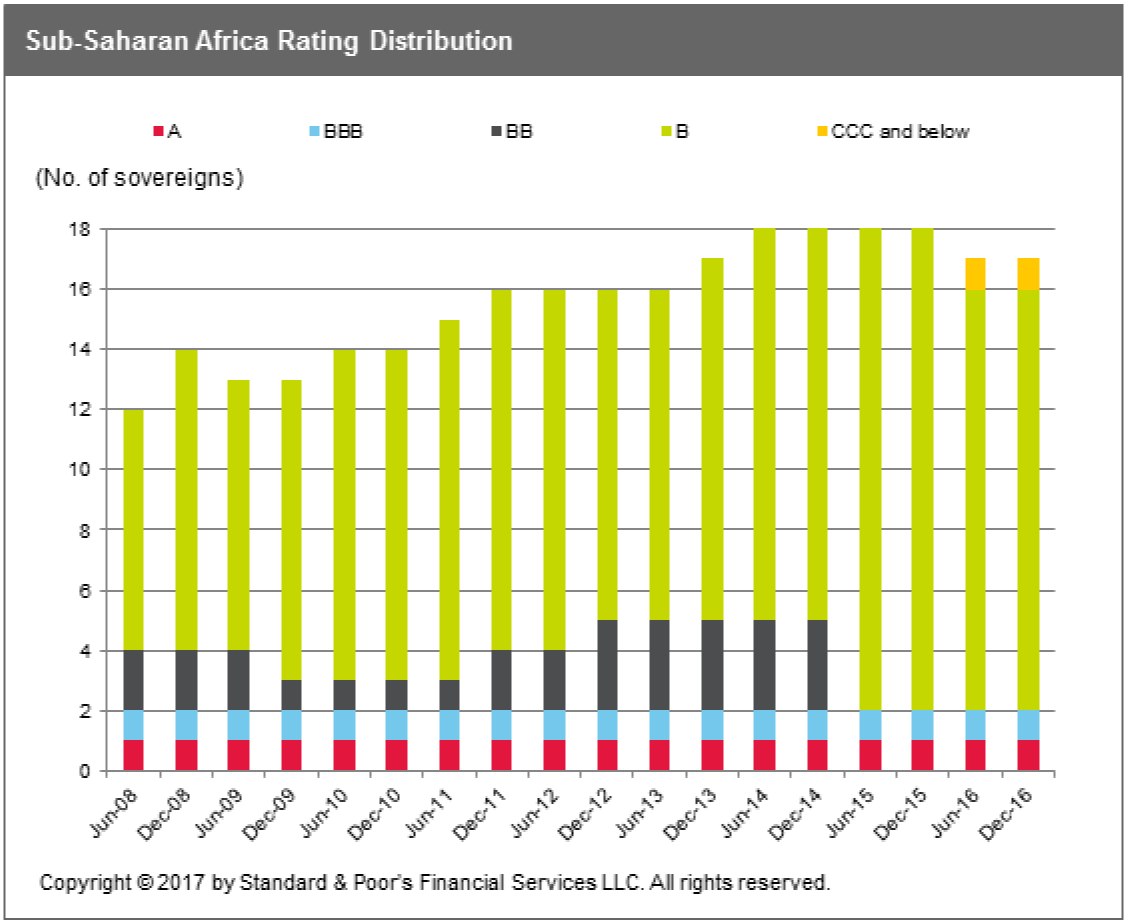
Sub-Saharan Africa Rating Distribution
A
BBB
BB
B
CCC and below
(No. of sovereigns)
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Jun-08
Dec-08
Jun-09
Dec-09
Jun-10
Dec-10
Jun-11
Dec-11
Jun-12
Dec-12
Jun-13
Dec-13
Jun-14
Dec-14
Jun-15
Dec-15
Jun-16
Dec-16
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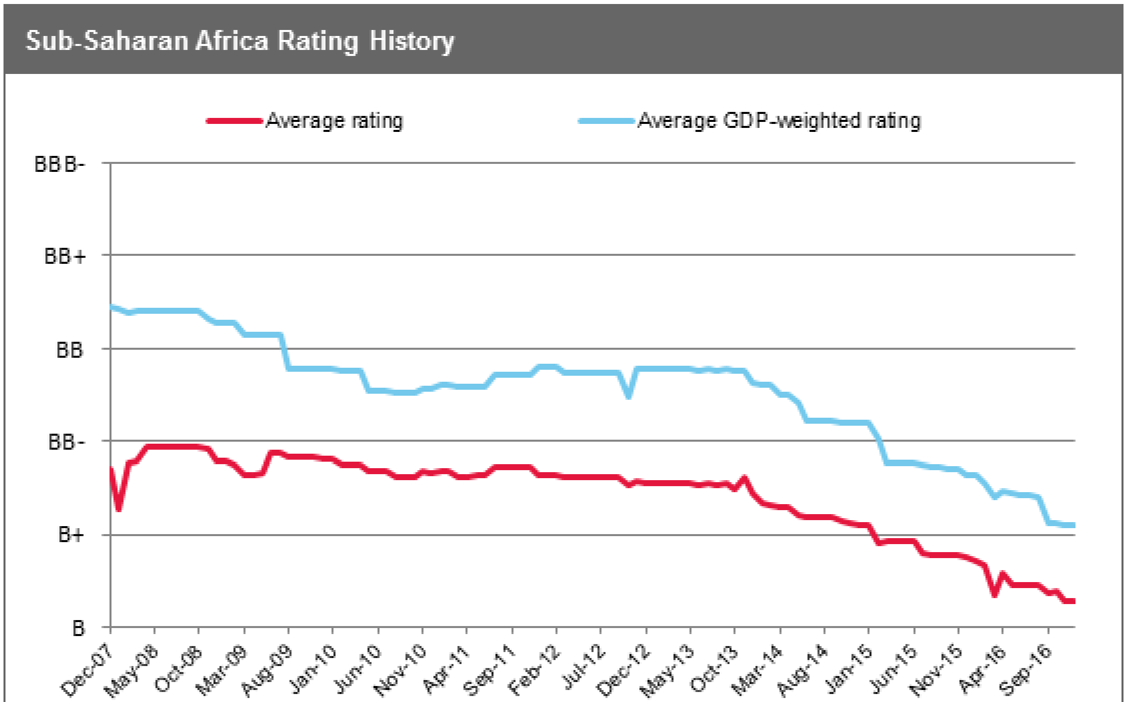
Chart 2



The rating history is an average of the foreign currency rating adjusted for positive or negative outlooks. The following sovereigns were assigned ratings after December 2007: Uganda (December 2008), Cape Verde (December 2008), Angola (May 2010), Zambia (March 2011), Rwanda (December 2011), Republic of Congo (December 2013), Democratic Republic of Congo (December 2013), Ethiopia (May 2014).

Chart 3

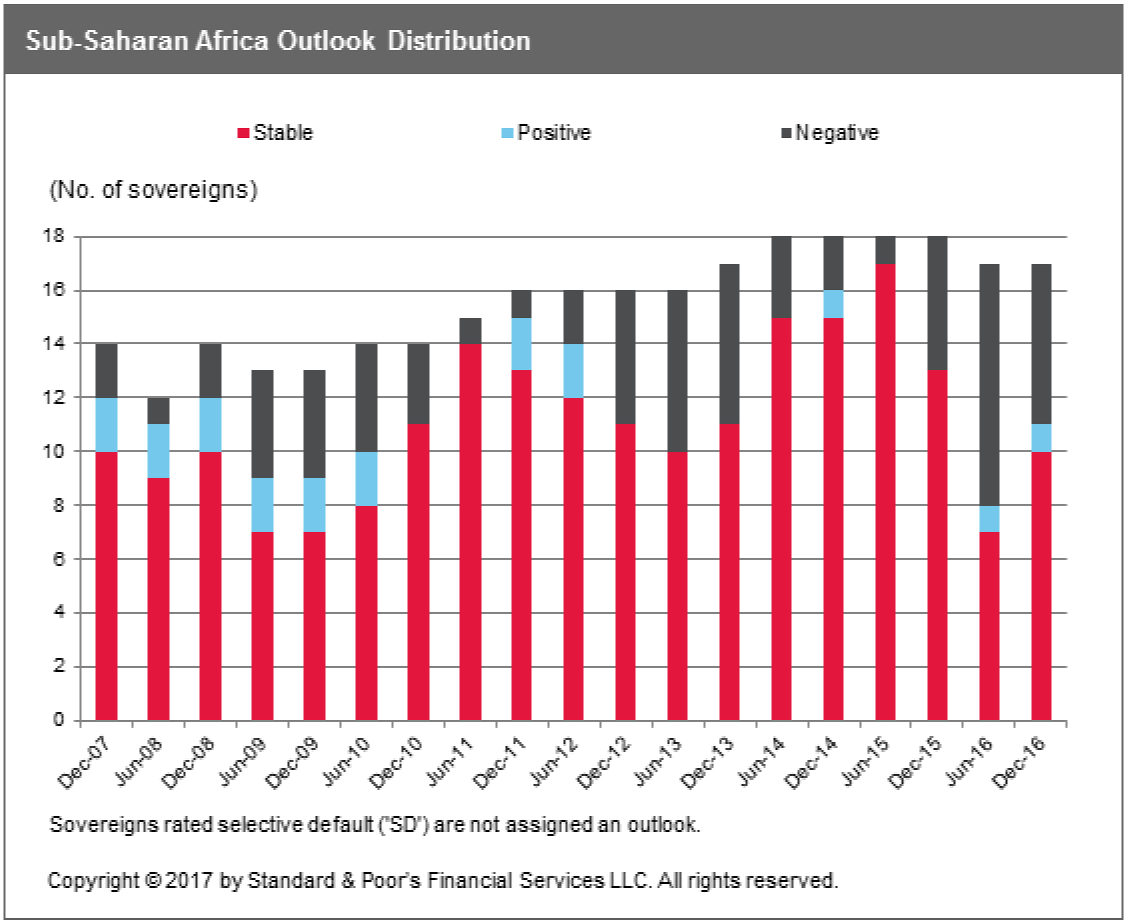


Table 1

Sub-Saharan Africa Sovereign Rating Strengths And Weaknesses

Issuer	Sovereign foreign currency ratings	Institutional assessment	Economic assessment	External assessment	Fiscal assessment, budget performance	Fiscal assessment, debt	Monetary assessment
Angola	B/Negative/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness
Botswana	A-/Negative/A-2	Neutral	Weakness	Strength	Neutral	Strength	Neutral
Burkina Faso	B-/Positive/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Strength	Weakness
Cameroon	B/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness	Strength	Weakness
Cape Verde	B/Stable/B	Neutral	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness
Congo	B-/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Strength	Weakness
Democratic Republic of Congo	B-/Negative/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Strength	Weakness
Ethiopia	B/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness
Ghana	B-/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral
Kenya	B+/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral
Mozambique	CC/Negative/C	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral
Nigeria	B/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness

Table 1

Sub-Saharan Africa Sovereign Rating Strengths And Weaknesses (cont.)

Issuer	Sovereign foreign currency ratings	Institutional assessment	Economic assessment	External assessment	Fiscal assessment, budget performance	Fiscal assessment, debt	Monetary assessment
Rwanda	B/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Strength	Neutral
Senegal	B+/Stable/B	Neutral	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness
South Africa	BBB-/Negative/A-3	Neutral	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness	Neutral	Strength
Uganda	B/Stable/B	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral
Zambia	B/Negative/B	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Weakness	Neutral
Strength (%)		0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	35.3	5.9
Neutral (%)		23.5	0.0	23.5	17.6	29.4	41.2
Weakness (%)		76.5	100.0	70.6	82.4	35.3	52.9

Table 2

Sub-Saharan Africa Economic Outlook

	Current account balance/GDP (%)		General government balance/GDP (%)		Net general government debt/GDP (%)		Real GDP growth (%)		Narrow net ext. debt/CARs (%)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Angola	(12.4)	(11.1)	(5.5)	(3.0)	36.1	36.5	1.3	2.0	62.2	81.5
Botswana	2.6	4.4	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.1)	0.3	3.0	3.5	(68.8)	(68.8)
Burkina Faso	(6.2)	(6.2)	(2.9)	(3.1)	28.8	29.9	5.5	6.5	53.2	51.5
Cameroon	(5.5)	(5.1)	(4.5)	(4.3)	22.5	25.2	5.0	5.3	53.5	62.7
Cape Verde	(3.4)	(7.3)	(4.0)	(3.5)	110.4	112.1	2.5	3.0	105.8	113.4
Congo	(22.3)	(17.2)	(9.5)	(7.0)	43.7	47.7	3.0	4.5	34.6	33.1
Democratic Republic of Congo	(4.6)	(4.0)	(1.2)	(1.4)	15.0	15.6	4.9	4.9	30.2	33.9
Ethiopia	(11.7)	(10.4)	(3.0)	(3.0)	25.6	26.4	7.0	7.5	172.1	175.9
Ghana	(8.1)	(6.7)	(5.5)	(3.5)	62.6	60.7	3.0	6.5	80.3	82.1
Kenya	(5.3)	(4.9)	(7.2)	(6.5)	53.1	54.9	6.0	5.8	105.4	101.2
Mozambique	(44.1)	(51.1)	(6.0)	(6.0)	122.4	121.6	3.4	6.0	329.6	348.2
Nigeria	(3.4)	(3.2)	(4.0)	(3.0)	14.1	16.0	(1.0)	2.0	56.7	69.7
Rwanda	(15.8)	(13.4)	(3.5)	(3.0)	32.4	33.0	6.0	6.0	110.0	121.2
Senegal	(6.8)	(6.8)	(4.3)	(3.8)	53.2	53.3	6.5	6.6	147.9	143.3
South Africa	(3.8)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(3.2)	47.2	48.5	0.5	1.4	31.3	31.4
Uganda	(7.7)	(7.6)	(6.4)	(6.0)	31.3	34.3	5.0	6.2	68.4	72.4
Zambia	(3.1)	(2.9)	(8.8)	(7.0)	56.1	57.3	3.0	4.0	62.3	72.3

Relatively Slow Growth And Fiscal And Current Account Pressures Will Remain A Drag On SSA Creditworthiness In 2017

We expect 2017 to remain challenging for SSA sovereigns. The theme of slow growth is set to continue in 2017, with many SSA sovereigns also facing external and fiscal pressures, despite fiscal consolidation efforts. Most rated SSA countries have a high reliance on oil or other key commodity exports, the prices of which, despite some recent modest increases, have largely remained well below previous highs. Relatively slow growth in many of SSA's main trading partners, China and Europe, will pose a continued drag on economic growth in SSA.

We lowered South Africa's local currency rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB+' in December 2016 on the back of slow growth and sizable fiscal financing needs, with the proportion of rand turnover in the global foreign exchange market having declined over the last three years. Nevertheless, the country's foreign currency rating of 'BBB-' remained unchanged. The negative outlook on both local and foreign currency ratings reflects the risk that we could lower our ratings if GDP growth or the fiscal trajectory does not improve in line with our expectations. The biggest challenge to South Africa in 2017 will be finding a way to increase GDP growth and GDP growth per capita so that employment opportunities and the tax base improve, without excessive dependency on external financing. However, this may prove difficult given its skewed economy with skills mismatches, and a historical dependency on a few highly concentrated economic sectors such as mining, retail, and automotives.

Across SSA, fiscal pressures stemming partially from lower revenues will continue as low rates of economic growth hinder the size of the governments' revenue bases. Of the 17 SSA sovereigns we rate, only three have neutral assessments of their fiscal budget performance. We assess this factor as a weakness for the remaining sovereigns, with general government debt levels rising faster than gross domestic product.

Nevertheless, the recent OPEC-deal-related oil-price rise may provide some respite for the region's big oil exporting sovereigns such as Angola and Nigeria. We forecast each country's fiscal deficit to contract in 2017, though Nigeria's only marginally from 4% in 2016 to 3% in 2017. This takes into account Nigeria's infrastructure-related expenditure plans as well as ongoing pipeline vandalism in the Niger delta that has significantly reduced oil output, with problems expected to continue in 2017.

The smaller oil producing sovereigns, including Ghana and Congo-Brazzaville, have adopted measures to consolidate their budgets and could see a slight easing of fiscal and current account pressures, partially due to the large depreciations of their respective currencies over the course of 2016, while oil exports remain priced in dollars. We forecast a reduction in Congo-Brazzaville's fiscal deficit to 7% in 2017 from 9.5% in 2016.

The recent agreement with opposition leaders in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will see Joseph Kabila remain as president until late 2017, although if the agreement is broken it could heighten political instability. Highlighting its traditionally strong democratic credentials, Ghana smoothly held elections in December 2016, with the opposition candidate Nana Akufo-Addo unseating the incumbent, John Mahama, owing to Mr. Mahama's poor record on the economy, and the new president's promise of a package of growth-enhancing reforms.

Our expectation is that Zambia will sign an IMF program in 2017, which will provide much needed liquidity and help anchor policy. However, there are concerns that the Zambian government's financing options could remain constrained into 2017, with the possibility that monetary policy effectiveness could be permanently reduced if high levels of dollarization in the economy are not controlled.

We lowered the ratings on Rwanda to 'B' in September given the sovereign's weak external position. We anticipate net external indebtedness will continue to pose risks in 2017, partially due to subdued commodity prices in key export minerals such as tin ore and tantalum.

Our 'CC' foreign currency and 'B-' local currency ratings on Mozambique and our negative outlook now reflect the government's October statement of its intent to restructure the US$726 million fixed-rate notes issued in April 2016 as well as other debts the state had guaranteed. In addition, with slow economic growth likely to persist for the near future, we believe Mozambique's public finances will remain under significant pressure in 2017.

Our revision of Kenya's outlook to stable from negative in October highlights our expectation that strong growth will offset Kenya's more volatile fiscal and external performance. As a net oil importer, Kenya has benefitted from relatively low oil prices.

Eurobond Issuances Are Down As Rising External Financing Costs Send Sovereigns To Domestic Markets

Bond issuances remained tilted toward domestic markets in 2016. Of the countries we rate, only South Africa, Mozambique, and Ghana tapped the international bond market, and only South Africa and Ghana did so in the second half of the year.

South Africa issued two Eurobonds for a total US$ 3 billion in October--a 4.3% US$2 billion issue maturing in 2028 and a 5% US$1 billion issue maturing in 2046--after an issue of US$1.25 billion earlier in April. Ghana has been issuing Eurobonds on an annual basis and has issued US$3.75 billion over the last four years, including that in September 2016 of a 9.25% US$750 million bond maturing in September 2022.

Mozambique's external financing (a 10.5% US$727 million issue in April, maturing in January 2023), was related specifically to restructuring efforts on the state-guaranteed debt sold by Ematum, a state-owned tuna-fishing company. However, the government revealed the existence of two other guarantees provided on the external debt of several enterprises in May, which led us to lower the ratings to 'CCC' and place all ratings on CreditWatch negative. In November, the government announced its intention to undertake further debt restructuring and is currently in talks with creditors, which led us to lower the rating to 'CC'. We think that slow growth, combined with low foreign exchange reserves, will likely hamper Mozambique's ability to service debt obligations on time and in full. The first debt service payment is due on Jan. 18, 2017, and amounts to nearly US$60 million.

We expect that the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, politics in Europe, and the tightening of monetary policy in the United States will contribute to heightened international market volatility and, as a consequence, may lead investors to move into safer assets and demand a higher return from frontier markets like SSA. These elements may reduce borrowing opportunities in international capital markets for the region in the near term.

Nevertheless, we do not exclude Sub-Saharan Africa Eurobonds issuances over the next year, considering the pressures asserted by weak economic growth and refinancing needs in region. Nigeria, for instance, already announced its intention to fund its fiscal deficit by tapping both the international and domestic market in 2017.

Sovereign Summaries

Angola (B/Negative/B)

- Analyst: gardner.rusike@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic of Angola Outlook Revised To Negative On Slower Economic Growth; Ratings Affirmed At 'B/B', Aug. 12, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Neutral
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Negative

The negative outlook reflects Angola's weakening economy, exhibited by a slower pace of economic growth this year, which may be prolonged absent further government policy responses.

We could lower our rating on Angola if the pace of economic growth continues to weaken, external financing risks increase, or government policy responses fail to limit further fiscal and monetary deterioration. We could also lower the rating if external reserves were to fall substantially. Deterioration in Angola's political or institutional environment ahead of or after the 2017 elections could result in a downgrade.

We could revise the outlook to stable if we see improvement in the pace of economic growth within the next year and if we see a marked strengthening of the country's external and fiscal accounts.

(Originally published Aug. 12, 2016)

Table 3

Angola Selected Indicators

(%)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017f	2018f	2019f
GDP per capita ($000s)	5.1	5.5	6.1	6.2	4.8	3.7	3.5	4.1	5.0
GDP growth	1.9	7.6	4.2	4.7	3.0	1.3	2.0	4.0	5.0
GDP per capita growth	(1.5)	4.1	0.8	1.3	(0.3)	(1.2)	(0.5)	1.5	2.4
Current account balance/GDP	11.8	11.0	5.9	(2.5)	(8.5)	(12.4)	(11.1)	(10.1)	(8.4)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	75.6	70.8	73.6	90.7	107.9	114.4	113.6	121.0	124.8
Narrow net external debt/CAR	(9.1)	(9.7)	(0.9)	15.0	31.5	62.2	81.5	83.4	79.6
GG balance/GDP	9.6	6.1	0.2	(5.6)	(6.2)	(5.5)	(3.0)	(2.4)	(2.0)
GG net debt/GDP	4.8	2.0	3.8	10.8	25.4	36.1	36.5	35.7	34.2
CPI inflation	13.5	10.3	8.8	7.3	10.3	30.0	15.0	8.0	8.0

Table 3

Angola Selected Indicators (cont.)									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	19.9	22.0	21.2	20.0	23.9	27.0	28.9	30.2	31.4

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Botswana (A-/Negative/A-2)

- Analyst: gardner.rusike@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic of Botswana Ratings Affirmed At 'A-/A-2'; Outlook Remains Negative, Oct. 28, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Neutral
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Strength
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Neutral
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Strength
- Monetary assessment: Neutral

Outlook: Negative

The negative outlook reflects the risks to the current ratings on Botswana over the next 12-18 months if the current diamond sector slump proves more structural than cyclical in nature. In our view, this could result in much weaker economic growth or a significant accumulation of government debt beyond our current expectations.

We could also lower the ratings if Botswana's external position deteriorates significantly (for example, due to a significant fall in diamond exports or much lower SACU receipts), or if--contrary to our expectations--Botswana's institutional framework and policy settings slip.

We could revise the outlook to stable if Botswana's fiscal performance proves materially stronger than we currently forecast while the development of domestic capital markets proceeds faster than we expect, improving the effectiveness of monetary policy.

(Originally published Oct. 28, 2016)

Table 4

Botswana Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	7.5	6.9	6.8	7.2	6.4	6.0	6.4	6.8	7.4
GDP growth	6.1	4.5	9.9	3.2	(0.3)	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5
GDP per capita growth	3.9	2.3	7.7	1.2	(2.1)	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
Current account balance/GDP	3.0	0.2	8.9	15.7	7.9	2.6	4.4	5.1	7.1
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	56.5	56.8	56.7	51.6	51.0	56.4	56.2	56.6	55.2

Table 4

Botswana Selected Indicators (cont.)									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
Narrow net external debt/CAR	(62.4)	(57.0)	(49.0)	(51.7)	(60.9)	(68.8)	(68.8)	(68.6)	(68.6)
GG balance/GDP	(0.2)	0.8	5.8	3.8	(4.8)	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	(1.6)
GG net debt/GDP	(2.4)	(0.5)	(4.8)	(9.6)	(8.4)	(4.1)	0.3	4.2	5.5
CPI inflation	8.5	7.5	5.9	4.4	3.0	3.0	5.0	6.0	6.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	28.9	33.5	34.6	34.5	36.8	37.9	38.6	40.6	42.4

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Burkina Faso (B-/Positive/B)

- Analyst: remy.carasse@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Burkina Faso 'B-/B' Ratings Affirmed, Outlook Remains Positive, Nov. 25, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Neutral
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Strength
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Positive

The positive outlook reflects our view that we could raise the ratings over the next six months if continued political stability provides more broad-based economic growth and leads us to improve our projections for external and fiscal metrics.

We could revise the outlook to stable if Burkina Faso proves unable to consolidate the institutional progress it has made, leading to wider external and fiscal positions than we currently expect.

(Originally published Nov. 25, 2016)

Table 5

Burkina Faso Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
GDP growth	6.6	6.5	6.2	4.0	4.0	5.5	6.5	6.5	7.0
GDP per capita growth	3.3	2.7	3.1	0.5	1.2	2.4	3.4	3.4	3.9
Current account balance/GDP	(1.5)	(1.5)	(11.1)	(8.0)	(6.8)	(6.2)	(6.2)	(6.4)	(6.8)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	94.6	96.6	121.9	124.9	133.3	130.9	129.4	129.3	127.1
Narrow net external debt/CAR	39.6	38.9	49.9	55.9	56.2	53.2	51.5	48.6	48.2
GG balance/GDP	(2.4)	(3.1)	(3.5)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.9)	(3.1)	(3.0)	(3.1)

Table 5

Burkina Faso Selected Indicators (cont.)									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GG net debt/GDP	23.5	22.1	23.1	25.6	27.4	28.8	29.9	30.7	31.4
CPI inflation	2.8	3.8	0.5	(0.3)	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.5
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	18.8	20.7	24.9	28.0	28.9	31.1	33.1	35.0	36.8

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Cameroon (B/Stable/B)

- Analyst: remy.carasse@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic of Cameroon 'B/B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Stable, Oct. 14, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Neutral
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Strength
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that, over the next 12 months, Cameroon's robust economic growth and external and government debt burden will not significantly deviate from our current assumptions.

We could raise the ratings if our view of Cameroon's institutions improved significantly, namely if more clarity and certainty surrounding the presidential succession emerges, and if the economy is boosted by the further investment and structural improvement without creating additional imbalances.

Conversely, we could lower our ratings on Cameroon if elevated political instability or other shocks occur, resulting, for example, in constraints to the government's access to external funding. If government and external debt increase significantly faster than we currently expect, pointing to substantial imbalances building up within the economy and a higher debt-service burden, the ratings could also come under pressure.

(Originally published Oct. 14, 2016)

Table 6

Cameroon Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5
GDP growth	4.1	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.4
GDP per capita growth	1.5	2.0	2.9	3.3	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.8
Current account balance/GDP	(2.8)	(3.6)	(3.8)	(4.4)	(4.1)	(5.5)	(5.1)	(4.5)	(4.1)

Table 6

Cameroon Selected Indicators (cont.)									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	83.6	90.4	92.5	95.8	93.6	95.4	97.5	98.8	99.6
Narrow net external debt/CAR	1.0	13.1	19.5	25.5	39.3	53.5	62.7	66.1	69.5
GG balance/GDP	(3.4)	(2.5)	(4.1)	(4.7)	(2.6)	(4.5)	(4.3)	(4.3)	(4.1)
GG net debt/GDP	10.3	11.7	13.8	17.7	19.2	22.5	25.2	27.6	29.7
CPI inflation	2.9	2.9	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.5
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	16.3	15.5	19.4	19.2	20.6	21.9	23.1	24.3	25.5

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Cape Verde (B/Stable/B)

- Analyst: maxim.rybnikov@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Outlook On Cape Verde Revised To Stable From Negative On Stronger Growth Forecast; 'B/B' Ratings Affirmed, Oct. 7, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Neutral
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Weakness
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that Cape Verde's growth will accelerate and fiscal deficits will reduce over the next few years.

We could lower the ratings if Cape Verde's fiscal performance is weaker over the next 12 months than we currently forecast. This could result from weaker growth or from contingent liabilities crystallizing on the sovereign's balance sheet. We could also lower the ratings on Cape Verde if we believe the ability of the government to respond proactively to its fiscal challenges has diminished from current levels, which we view as favorable compared with regional peers.

We could raise the ratings if growth is much stronger than we envision at present.

(Originally published Oct. 7, 2016)

Table 7

Cape Verde Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.5

Table 7

Cape Verde Selected Indicators (cont.)									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP growth	4.0	1.1	0.8	1.9	1.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	4.0
GDP per capita growth	3.0	(0.1)	(0.5)	0.6	0.2	1.7	2.2	2.2	3.2
Current account balance/GDP	(16.3)	(14.0)	(5.8)	(9.0)	(4.3)	(3.4)	(7.3)	(7.2)	(5.6)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	110.1	120.2	111.7	116.9	97.5	96.1	99.6	100.8	96.3
Narrow net external debt/CAR	81.8	103.0	108.1	96.4	112.4	105.8	113.4	99.0	98.2
GG balance/GDP	(7.7)	(12.4)	(9.3)	(7.7)	(4.0)	(4.0)	(3.5)	(3.0)	(2.5)
GG net debt/GDP	63.6	74.9	86.2	97.5	106.0	110.4	112.1	112.2	109.8
CPI inflation	4.5	2.5	1.5	(0.2)	0.1	0.0	1.0	2.0	2.5
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	66.0	64.9	64.6	62.9	63.6	62.7	61.1	59.4	57.1

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Congo-Brazzaville (B-/Stable/B)

- Analyst: remy.carasse@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic Of Congo Ratings Affirmed At 'B-/B'; Outlook Stable, Sept. 23, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Strength
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that current account and fiscal deficits will reduce from their current levels.

We could lower the ratings if Congo's fiscal and external positions were to deteriorate beyond our current projections, leading to a larger decline in liquid assets and foreign-exchange reserves than we currently expect, or if Congo's policymaking were to weaken significantly. We could also lower the ratings if we considered that the authorities had not addressed the administrative issues that led to the recent late payment on Congo's Eurobond.

We could raise the ratings if Congo's fiscal and external accounts performed well above our expectations, preventing a decline in the government's liquid assets and foreign-exchange reserves.

(Originally published Sept. 23, 2016)

Table 8

Congo-Brazzaville Selected Indicators

(%)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017f	2018f	2019f
GDP per capita ($000s)	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.5
GDP growth	3.4	3.8	3.4	6.8	2.0	3.0	4.5	5.0	5.0
GDP per capita growth	0.7	1.2	0.9	4.2	(0.6)	0.4	1.9	2.4	2.4
Current account balance/GDP	5.9	(1.2)	(4.3)	(5.2)	(20.5)	(22.3)	(17.2)	(12.8)	(9.3)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	70.2	68.6	69.3	71.6	78.9	105.2	104.2	99.7	90.7
Narrow net external debt/CAR	(23.8)	(35.0)	(37.0)	(14.1)	22.7	34.6	33.1	24.0	11.1
GG balance/GDP	16.4	6.4	(1.7)	(5.5)	(10.1)	(9.5)	(7.0)	(5.0)	(2.5)
GG net debt/GDP	0.4	4.3	4.6	14.5	30.6	43.7	47.7	49.3	49.6
CPI inflation	1.3	3.9	6.0	0.1	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.5
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	8.0	9.9	11.6	14.6	20.3	25.2	27.2	29.4	32.6

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Congo-Kinshasa (B-/Negative/B)

- Analyst: remy.carasse@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Democratic Republic of Congo 'B-/B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Remains Negative, Aug. 5, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Neutral
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Strength
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Negative

The negative outlook reflects our view that external vulnerabilities could increase more than we currently expect and that political tensions could rise in the run up to the elections, causing institutional and economic disruption over the next 12 months.

We could lower the ratings on DR Congo if political and social tensions flared up, undermining institutions and the economy, or if its external liquidity or fiscal position were to weaken significantly more than we currently expect through, for example, a higher decline in foreign exchange reserves, or significantly larger current account and fiscal deficits than we currently forecast.

We could revise the outlook to stable if DR Congo improved its external liquidity and if the elections were carried out smoothly, boosting investor confidence.

(Originally published Aug. 5, 2016)

Table 9

Democratic Republic of Congo Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
GDP growth	6.9	7.1	8.5	9.5	6.9	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.2
GDP per capita growth	3.5	3.7	5.1	6.1	3.6	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.1
Current account balance/GDP	(5.0)	(4.3)	(9.5)	(4.8)	(4.1)	(4.6)	(4.0)	(3.8)	(3.7)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	104.6	106.0	114.7	104.4	104.5	110.0	115.2	117.2	115.6
Narrow net external debt/CAR	28.1	26.0	18.9	15.5	20.6	30.2	33.9	34.0	32.7
GG balance/GDP	(0.5)	0.6	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.8)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.3)	(1.3)
GG net debt/GDP	20.6	17.2	17.4	15.1	14.6	15.0	15.6	16.0	16.3
CPI inflation	15.0	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	4.6	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.5	7.1	7.7	8.2	8.8

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Ethiopia (B/Stable/B)

- Analyst: maxim.rybnikov@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 'B/B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Stable, Oct. 21, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Neutral
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook is premised on our expectation that political tensions will not escalate, while economic performance will remain robust and current account deficits and related public sector debt will not materially deviate from our forecasts over the next 12 months.

We could raise the ratings if completed infrastructure projects increase Ethiopia's exports more than we currently expect, thereby reducing the country's gross external financing needs and external debt burden.

We could lower the ratings if political instability escalated over the next 12 months; economic growth slowed; or the fiscal or external position deteriorated, for instance as a result of higher than forecast public sector external borrowing.

(Originally published Oct. 21, 2016)

Table 10

Ethiopia Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0
GDP growth	8.7	10.6	10.3	9.6	6.5	7.0	7.5	7.5	8.5
GDP per capita growth	6.0	7.8	7.5	7.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.0	6.0
Current account balance/GDP	(10.6)	(9.1)	(10.5)	(14.5)	(12.3)	(11.7)	(10.4)	(8.9)	(7.2)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	124.2	128.1	139.8	161.8	149.9	152.9	150.0	145.3	139.2
Narrow net external debt/CAR	65.5	86.8	106.1	150.6	151.0	172.1	175.9	178.6	166.9
GG balance/GDP	(1.2)	(1.9)	(2.6)	(2.5)	(2.0)	(3.0)	(3.0)	(2.8)	(2.5)
GG net debt/GDP	18.4	19.9	21.2	22.7	24.6	25.6	26.4	27.0	26.9
CPI inflation	32.5	13.5	8.2	7.6	8.7	9.0	8.5	8.5	8.5
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	24.2	26.6	28.2	32.4	33.4	34.4	35.4	36.4	37.1

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Ghana (B-/Stable/B)

- Analyst: nourredine.lafhel@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Ghana Ratings Affirmed At 'B-/B'; Outlook Remains Stable, Oct. 21 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Weakness
- Monetary assessment: Neutral

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook reflects our view that wide fiscal and external account deficits will persist over the next year, but that the IMF program will lead to gradual fiscal consolidation.

We could lower the ratings if we conclude that Ghana's domestic or external debt financing conditions will worsen further, if the fiscal consolidation trend reverses, or if international reserves decline further.

We could raise the ratings if Ghana improves its fiscal position and the Bank of Ghana succeeds in bolstering the country's external position. In the medium term, oil-related revenues, if properly managed, could boost creditworthiness.

(Originally published Oct. 21, 2016)

Table 11

Ghana Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7
GDP growth	14.1	9.3	7.3	4.0	3.9	3.0	6.5	7.0	7.5
GDP per capita growth	11.3	6.7	4.8	1.6	1.5	0.6	4.0	4.5	5.0
Current account balance/GDP	(9.0)	(11.7)	(11.9)	(9.6)	(7.6)	(8.1)	(6.7)	(6.6)	(6.2)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	108.0	110.7	115.5	118.2	119.4	124.1	125.7	121.9	117.1
Narrow net external debt/CAR	31.9	38.7	66.2	84.3	81.7	80.3	82.1	74.9	61.9
GG balance/GDP	(4.1)	(10.8)	(9.8)	(10.1)	(6.9)	(5.5)	(3.5)	(3.0)	(3.0)
GG net debt/GDP	35.7	45.3	54.5	62.9	62.3	62.6	60.7	58.3	56.3
CPI inflation	8.7	9.2	13.5	17.0	17.7	16.0	13.0	11.0	8.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	15.6	15.9	16.9	19.9	21.0	22.4	23.0	23.2	23.0

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Kenya (B+/Stable/B)

- Analyst: benjamin.young@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Outlook On Republic of Kenya Revised To Stable; 'B+/B' Ratings Affirmed, Oct. 14, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Neutral
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Weakness
- Monetary assessment: Neutral

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that over the next year strong growth prospects and more benign government financing conditions will facilitate fiscal consolidation and contain increases in external indebtedness.

We could lower the ratings if Kenya's budget deficits were to increase further or government debt increased more than we currently expect. We could also lower the ratings if political tensions flared up and undermined stability-oriented economic policymaking, or if Kenya's external liquidity or financial conditions markedly deteriorated and led to a significant loss of foreign-exchange reserves and widening of the external financing gap.

We could raise the ratings if we see prospects for sustained political and economic stability, including declining budgetary imbalances, supported particularly by expenditure control, alongside a sustained improvement in Kenya's external accounts.

(Originally published Oct. 14, 2016)

Table 12

Kenya Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9
GDP growth	6.1	4.6	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0
GDP per capita growth	3.3	1.8	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.3
Current account balance/GDP	(9.1)	(8.4)	(8.8)	(9.8)	(6.8)	(5.3)	(4.9)	(4.4)	(4.6)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	113.5	120.7	121.9	126.2	117.3	120.5	120.4	118.7	120.5
Narrow net external debt/CAR	51.9	54.0	73.8	77.1	113.7	105.4	101.2	96.9	89.3
GG balance/GDP	(4.8)	(6.0)	(6.5)	(9.0)	(7.9)	(7.2)	(6.5)	(6.0)	(5.5)
GG net debt/GDP	39.0	39.8	42.1	47.9	50.9	53.1	54.9	54.6	53.8
CPI inflation	14.0	9.4	5.7	6.9	6.6	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	32.9	32.2	34.2	36.9	37.5	37.1	38.1	39.8	41.6

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Mozambique (CC/Negative/C)

- Analyst: gardner.rusike@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic of Mozambique Long-Term Foreign Currency Ratings Lowered to 'CC' On Announced Debt Restructuring; Outlook Neg, Nov. 4, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Weakness
- Monetary assessment: Neutral

Outlook: Negative

The negative outlook reflects our expectation that we will consider Mozambique's restructuring of its notes maturing in 2023 as tantamount to default.

We could lower the long-term foreign currency rating on Mozambique to 'SD' if we consider that the investors will receive less value than the promise of the original securities, or if we believe the offer is distressed, rather than purely opportunistic. Once the restructuring is completed successfully, we expect to review our rating on Mozambique to reflect our forward-looking opinion on its creditworthiness.

(Originally published Nov. 4, 2016)

Table 13

Mozambique Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
GDP growth	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.4	6.6	3.4	6.0	7.0	8.0
GDP per capita growth	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.5	3.7	1.2	3.7	4.7	5.7
Current account balance/GDP	(25.4)	(44.5)	(39.0)	(34.2)	(41.6)	(44.1)	(51.1)	(60.8)	(70.2)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	145.6	173.0	159.1	154.0	171.6	179.1	219.7	214.8	226.2
Narrow net external debt/CAR	132.2	113.0	130.6	152.0	227.9	329.6	348.2	319.2	299.9
GG balance/GDP	(4.6)	(3.8)	(4.6)	(7.8)	(4.4)	(6.0)	(6.0)	(5.0)	(4.5)
GG net debt/GDP	24.7	31.8	43.9	54.7	79.6	122.4	121.6	116.0	107.5
CPI inflation	10.4	2.7	4.3	2.6	3.6	18.0	10.0	5.5	5.5
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	25.5	26.9	31.2	36.3	38.8	40.4	42.6	45.3	47.7

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Nigeria (B/Stable/B)

- Analyst: gardner.rusike@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Federal Republic of Nigeria Ratings Lowered To 'B/B' On Weak Growth Dynamics; Outlook Stable, Sept. 16, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Neutral
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook signals our assessment that at this lower rating the risks to the government's credit standing are balanced.

We may lower the ratings if we observe further deterioration of Nigeria's fiscal or external accounts, or greater stress in the financial sector than we currently expect.

We could raise our ratings on Nigeria if we see policy responses that improve domestic growth prospects on a structural basis. These could include, for example, an easing of controls on current and capital account transactions that lead to an adjustment in external accounts or a successful implementation of the government's anti-corruption measures that materially boosts non-oil revenues.

(Originally published Sept. 16, 2016)

Table 14

Nigeria Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	2.5	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.2
GDP growth	4.9	4.3	5.4	6.3	2.7	(1.0)	2.0	4.0	4.3
GDP per capita growth	2.1	1.5	2.6	3.5	(0.0)	(3.5)	(0.5)	1.4	1.7
Current account balance/GDP	2.6	3.8	3.7	0.2	(3.2)	(3.4)	(3.2)	(2.3)	(2.0)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	82.0	79.8	77.9	94.4	122.8	136.9	150.6	148.3	142.6
Narrow net external debt/CAR	(21.7)	(27.1)	(15.9)	(2.1)	24.6	56.7	69.7	65.8	62.8
GG balance/GDP	0.3	(0.3)	(2.4)	(1.8)	(3.7)	(4.0)	(3.0)	(2.3)	(2.0)
GG net debt/GDP	5.9	8.7	12.2	10.6	10.6	14.1	16.0	16.8	17.3
CPI inflation	10.8	12.2	8.5	8.1	9.0	15.0	11.0	9.0	9.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	13.3	12.4	13.0	14.8	14.3	14.2	14.4	15.7	17.2

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Rwanda (B/Stable/B)

- Analyst: maxim.rybnikov@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Rwanda Ratings Lowered To 'B' On Balance Of Payments Risks; Outlook Stable, Sept. 9, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Strength
- Monetary assessment: Neutral

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook balances the potential for stronger-than-anticipated economic growth or fiscal performance against the risks of Rwanda's external metrics weakening further over the next 12 months.

We could lower the ratings if, in contrast to our present expectations, Rwanda's current account deficits do not narrow from 2017 onward, leading to a sustained additional external debt accumulation and/or a decline in net foreign exchange reserves.

We could raise the ratings if Rwanda's growth or fiscal performance were to materially exceed our baseline forecasts.

(Originally published Sept. 9, 2016)

Table 15

Rwanda Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
GDP growth	7.8	8.8	4.7	7.0	6.9	6.0	6.0	6.7	7.0
GDP per capita growth	5.7	5.7	2.4	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.5	4.2	4.5
Current account balance/GDP	(7.2)	(10.1)	(7.4)	(11.9)	(13.5)	(15.8)	(13.4)	(11.3)	(8.8)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	93.0	97.1	99.3	108.1	116.8	126.7	124.8	119.8	111.7
Narrow net external debt/CAR	10.0	31.5	37.2	54.3	79.8	110.0	121.2	118.7	110.5
GG balance/GDP	(1.6)	(5.5)	(4.5)	(5.5)	(3.8)	(3.5)	(3.0)	(2.5)	(2.5)
GG net debt/GDP	9.1	13.7	19.3	24.1	29.7	32.4	33.0	32.8	32.4
CPI inflation	5.7	6.3	4.2	1.8	2.5	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	13.3	15.4	15.6	16.8	20.2	21.0	21.3	21.9	23.4

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Senegal (B+/Stable/B)

- Analyst: remy.carasse@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic of Senegal Ratings Affirmed At 'B+/B'; Outlook Stable, Dec. 16, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Neutral
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Neutral
- Monetary assessment: Weakness

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook reflects our view, over the next year, of Senegal's sustained strong economic growth and gradual fiscal consolidation.

If the government's investment program and growth-enhancing measures boost the economic activities significantly higher than we currently expect, leading to external and fiscal deficits and net government debt as a share of GDP falling materially, we could consider raising our ratings on Senegal.

Conversely, we could consider lowering the ratings on Senegal if the government fails to carry through with its growth-enhancing measures, in particular, removing energy bottlenecks, improving investment conditions, and allocating resources more efficiently, or if the reduction in economic imbalances we anticipate does not materialize.

(Originally published Dec. 16, 2016)

Table 16

Senegal Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
GDP growth	1.8	4.4	3.5	4.3	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.7
GDP per capita growth	(0.7)	1.9	(3.3)	1.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
Current account balance/GDP	(8.0)	(10.8)	(10.5)	(8.8)	(7.1)	(6.8)	(6.8)	(7.0)	(7.0)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	99.1	108.1	106.8	103.9	104.9	106.5	101.2	100.0	98.0
Narrow net external debt/CAR	99.5	103.5	109.7	131.7	156.9	147.9	143.3	132.7	124.4
GG balance/GDP	(6.7)	(5.8)	(5.5)	(5.2)	(4.8)	(4.3)	(3.8)	(3.5)	(3.2)
GG net debt/GDP	34.0	35.5	40.2	47.4	52.3	53.2	53.3	53.1	52.6
CPI inflation	3.4	1.4	0.7	(1.1)	0.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	31.3	30.9	35.1	34.9	36.4	37.2	37.9	38.6	39.3

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

South Africa (BBB-/Negative/A-3)

- Analyst: gardner.rusike@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: South Africa Long-Term Local Currency Rating Lowered To 'BBB'; Foreign Currency Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Still Negative, Dec. 2, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Neutral
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Neutral
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Neutral
- Monetary assessment: Strength

Outlook: Negative

The negative outlook reflects the potential adverse consequences of persistently low GDP growth on the public balance sheet, in the next one to two years.

We could lower the ratings if GDP growth or the fiscal trajectory does not improve in line with our current expectations, for example if South Africa enters a recession in 2017 or wealth levels continue to decline in U.S. dollar terms. We could also lower the ratings if we believed that institutions had become weaker due to political interference affecting the government's policy framework. Downward rating pressure would also mount if net general government debt and contingent liabilities related to financially weak government-related entities exceeded our current expectations. A reduction in fiscal flexibility may also lead us to further narrow the gap between the local and foreign currency ratings.

We could revise our outlook to stable if we observed policy implementation leading to improving business confidence and increasing private sector investment, and ultimately contributing to higher GDP growth and improving fiscal dynamics.

(Originally published Dec. 2, 2016)

Table 17

South Africa Selected Indicators

(%)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017f	2018f	2019f
GDP per capita ($000s)	8.1	7.6	6.9	6.5	5.8	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.8
GDP growth	2.9	2.5	2.8	1.7	1.2	0.5	1.4	1.8	2.1
GDP per capita growth	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.1	(0.5)	(1.0)	(0.1)	0.3	0.6
Current account balance/GDP	(2.2)	(5.1)	(5.9)	(5.3)	(4.3)	(3.8)	(3.5)	(3.6)	(3.4)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	100.7	104.5	109.6	107.5	110.2	106.6	103.1	103.2	103.0
Narrow net external debt/CAR	3.7	21.5	19.0	26.5	24.1	31.3	31.4	30.8	28.8
GG balance/GDP	(3.7)	(4.2)	(3.8)	(3.6)	(3.8)	(3.5)	(3.2)	(2.8)	(2.6)
GG net debt/GDP	32.7	36.4	39.6	42.4	45.1	47.2	48.5	49.0	49.1
CPI inflation	5.0	5.6	5.7	6.1	4.6	6.3	5.7	5.4	5.4
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	75.6	77.9	75.7	76.9	80.2	81.4	82.2	82.3	82.2

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Uganda (B/Stable/B)

- Analyst: gardner.rusike@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic of Uganda 'B/B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Stable, Dec. 16, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Neutral
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Weakness
- Monetary assessment: Neutral

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook balances the risks from a temporary worsening in the government's fiscal position, caused by spending on public-sector infrastructure projects, against our expectation that the country's fiscal and external metrics will improve once the projects are completed, triggering an increase in the productive capacity of the economy.

Our ratings analysis factors in our expectation that the Ugandan government will broadly stay on track with its Policy Support Instrument with the International Monetary Fund and with its broader relations with official creditors.

We could lower our ratings on Uganda if our assumptions regarding the economic impact of the public works or the government's relations with official creditors do not hold.

Conversely, we could raise the ratings if we have markedly underestimated the economic benefits of the infrastructure projects.

(Originally published Dec. 16, 2016)

Table 18

Uganda Selected Indicators

(%)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017f	2018f	2019f
GDP per capita ($000s)	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
GDP growth	5.9	3.2	4.7	4.9	5.5	5.0	6.2	6.5	6.5
GDP per capita growth	2.5	(0.1)	1.4	1.5	2.2	1.8	3.0	3.3	3.3
Current account balance/GDP	(9.6)	(6.7)	(6.9)	(8.3)	(6.5)	(7.7)	(7.6)	(7.4)	(7.1)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	107.0	104.6	101.7	108.7	102.0	110.8	110.4	112.0	113.8
Narrow net external debt/CAR	29.8	31.2	40.2	49.8	61.5	68.4	72.4	74.7	75.0
GG balance/GDP	(3.0)	(2.4)	(3.3)	(3.8)	(4.0)	(6.4)	(6.0)	(5.0)	(4.6)
GG net debt/GDP	7.2	17.8	16.4	20.7	27.2	31.3	34.3	35.9	36.8
CPI inflation	18.7	14.0	5.5	4.3	5.2	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	13.2	13.1	12.9	13.2	13.5	13.6	14.1	14.6	15.1

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Zambia (B/Negative/B)

- Analyst: benjamin.young@spglobal.com
- Latest published research update: Republic of Zambia 'B/B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Remains Negative, Aug. 26, 2016

Rating score snapshot

- Institutional assessment: Weakness
- Economic assessment: Weakness
- External assessment: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, budget performance: Weakness
- Fiscal assessment, debt: Weakness
- Monetary assessment: Neutral

Outlook: Negative

The negative outlook reflects downside risks to our economic growth outlook, concerns that the government's financing options could remain constrained into 2017, and the possibility that monetary policy effectiveness could be permanently reduced if high levels of dollarization in the economy are not reversed in the short term.

We could lower the ratings if there are material delays to the formation of a new government. This could also delay the expected signature of an IMF program, which in turn could result in heightened uncertainty, a further sharp decline in the kwacha, and weaker economic growth.

We could revise the outlook to stable if current levels of political uncertainty were to moderate, the kwacha were to stabilize, and the government's financing sources were to broaden.

(Originally published Aug. 26, 2016)

Table 19

Zambia Selected Indicators									
(%)	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017f**	**2018f**	**2019f**
GDP per capita ($000s)	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4
GDP growth	5.6	7.6	5.1	5.0	3.2	3.0	4.0	5.0	5.0
GDP per capita growth	2.5	4.4	2.0	1.9	0.1	0.3	1.3	2.2	2.2
Current account balance/GDP	4.1	4.9	(0.8)	2.1	(3.6)	(3.1)	(2.9)	(2.6)	(2.1)
Gross external financing needs/CAR&FXR	89.5	84.6	93.9	90.4	100.3	105.4	110.3	104.3	102.1
Narrow net external debt/CAR	13.9	28.7	25.1	21.1	39.3	62.3	72.3	72.4	67.3
GG balance/GDP	(1.9)	(2.5)	(6.9)	(4.7)	(7.9)	(8.8)	(7.0)	(5.5)	(4.5)
GG net debt/GDP	17.4	20.1	22.9	28.8	51.8	56.1	57.3	56.5	54.8
CPI inflation	6.4	6.6	7.0	7.8	10.1	18.0	13.0	10.0	9.0
Bank credit to resident private sector/GDP	10.2	12.5	11.9	13.3	16.0	14.8	14.6	14.9	15.9

f--Forecast. CAR&FXR--Current account receipts plus usable foreign exchange reserves. GG-General government. A free and interactive version of a larger number of sovereign risk indicators can be found at spratings.com/sri.

Related Criteria And Research

Related Criteria

- Sovereign Rating Methodology, Dec. 23, 2014
- Methodology For Linking Short-Term And Long-Term Ratings For Corporate, Insurance, And Sovereign Issuers, May 7, 2013
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Selected Related Research

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