



S&P Global – UNCTAD | Sovereign Ratings in Africa

Reference Slides

December 2nd, 2025

Geneva

S&P Global
Ratings

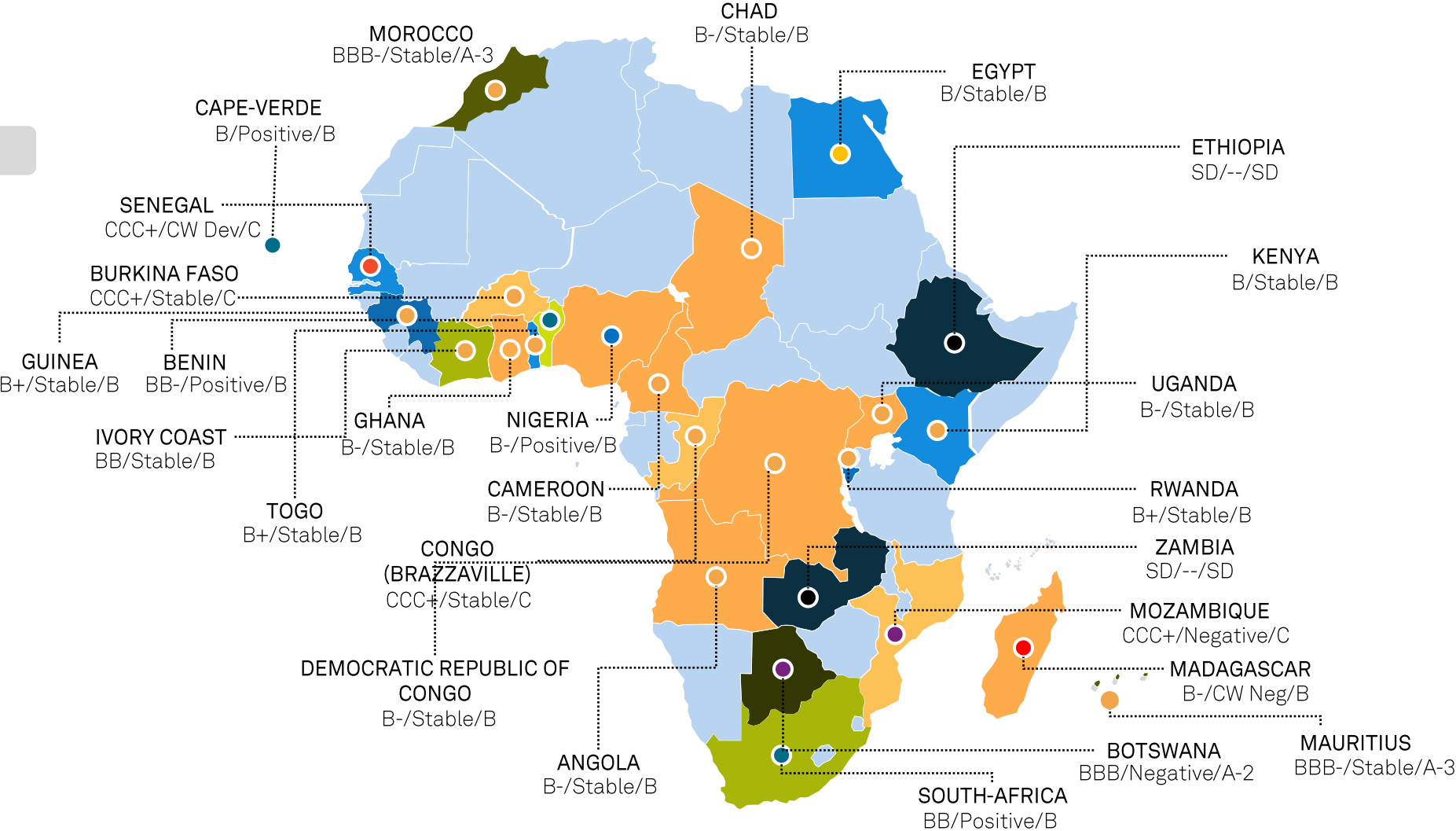
27 Sovereign Ratings In Africa | A Large And Diversified Coverage

Foreign Currency Long Term Ratings



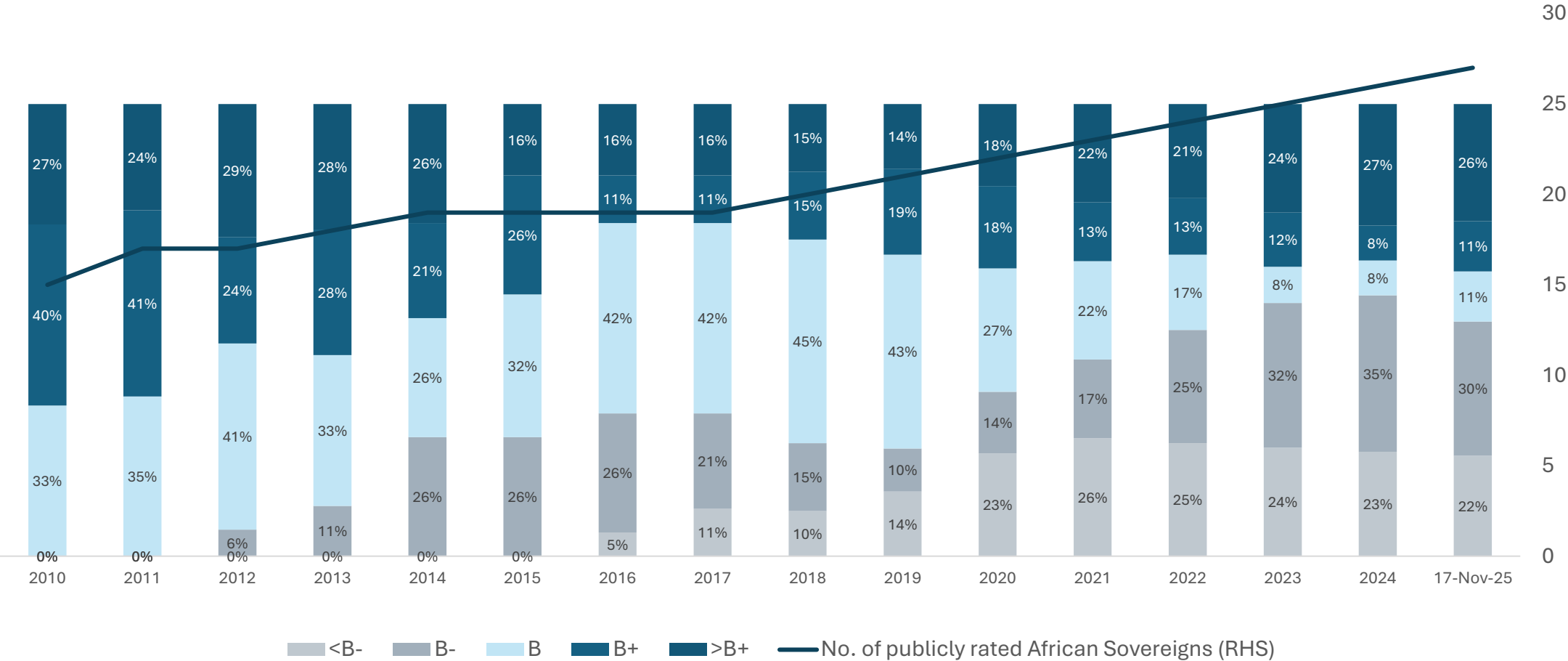
- Outlook positive
- Outlook stable
- Outlook Negative
- CreditWatch Negative
- CreditWatch Developing

*Not Rated



African Rating Trends | Following a deteriorating of credit quality from 2016 to 2022, there has been an upward rating trend since 2023.

The average sovereign rating in Africa has moved closer to ‘B’ from ‘B-’ in early 2023.



Source: S&P Global Ratings

African Rating Trends | Twice the number of positive actions over 2025

2025 Rating/Outlook Changes	
Positive Actions	Negative Actions
Togo	Senegal
Kenya	Botswana
Egypt	Madagascar
South Africa	Mozambique
Morocco	
Nigeria	
Cape Verde	
Ghana	
Uganda	

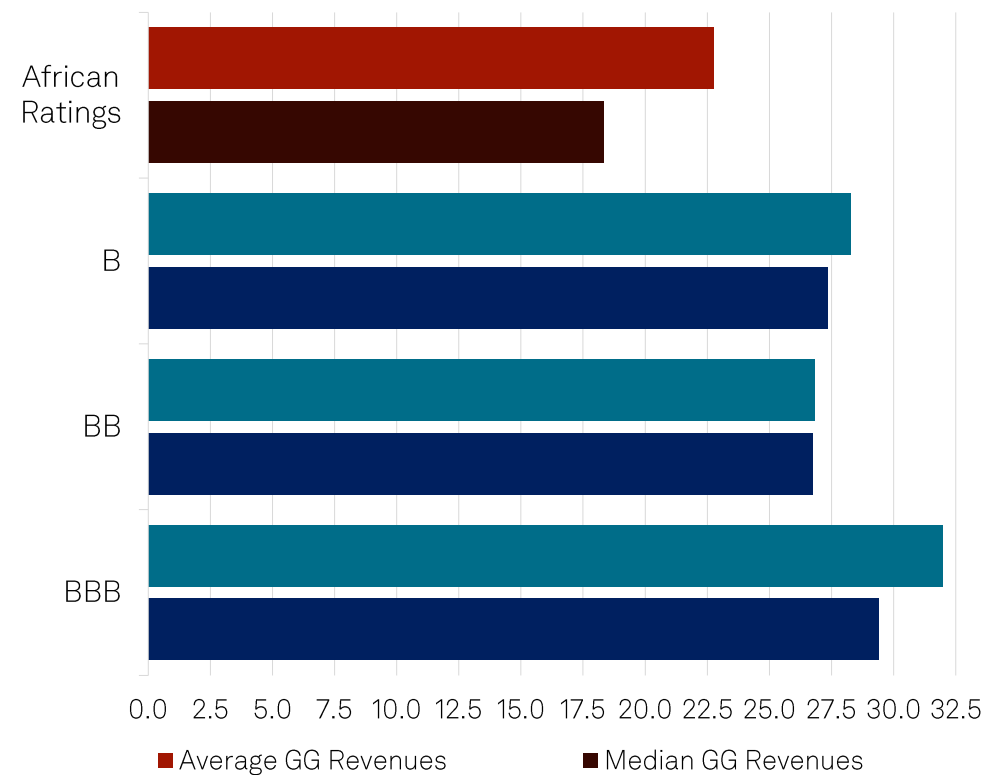
- Improving **growth** prospects and **reform** momentum are the most frequently cited characteristics of positive movements, followed by fiscal improvements and receding liquidity pressures.
- Negative movements are most frequently characterized by **fiscal** pressures and **political** instability.

Source: S&P Global Ratings

African Sovereign Ratings | Credit deterioration in the last decade originates from exposure to external shocks and little fiscal capacity to cushion them

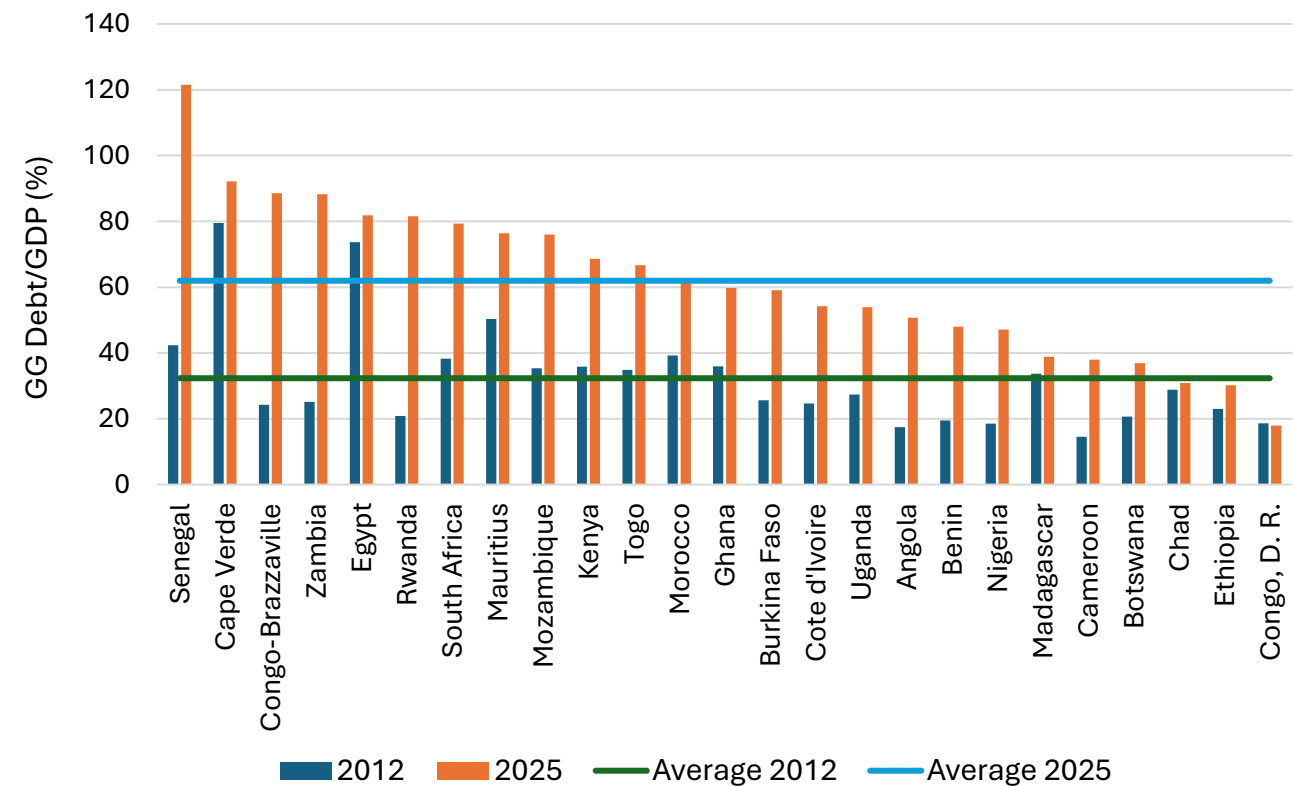
African sovereigns still lag behind on revenue collections. Global avg. **31%** of GDP, Africa avg. **19%**

Average and Median GG Revenues as ppts. of GDP, 2025



Source: S&P Global Ratings.

At just over 60% of GDP, the average government **debt** stock in rated Africa has nearly **doubled** since 2012

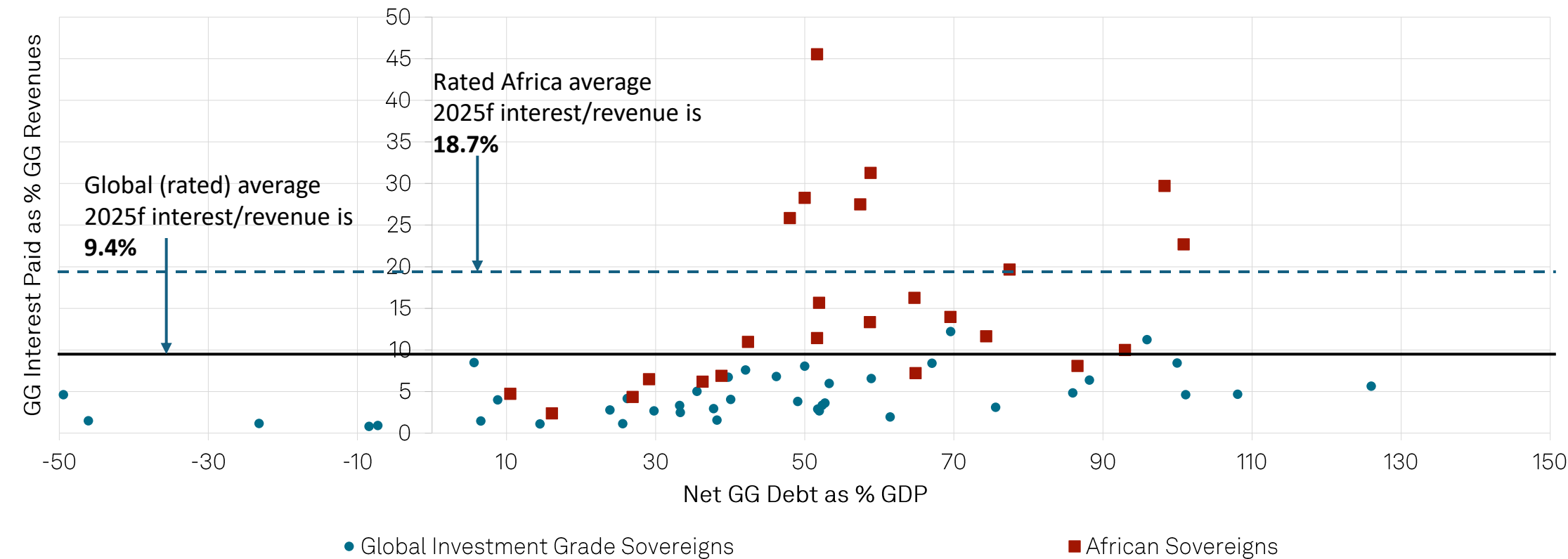


Copyright © 2025 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

African Sovereign Ratings | High & Rising borrowing costs

Debt stocks vary but debt service costs remain high

Net GG Debt (as ppts. of GDP); GG Interest Paid (as ppts. of GDP), 2025



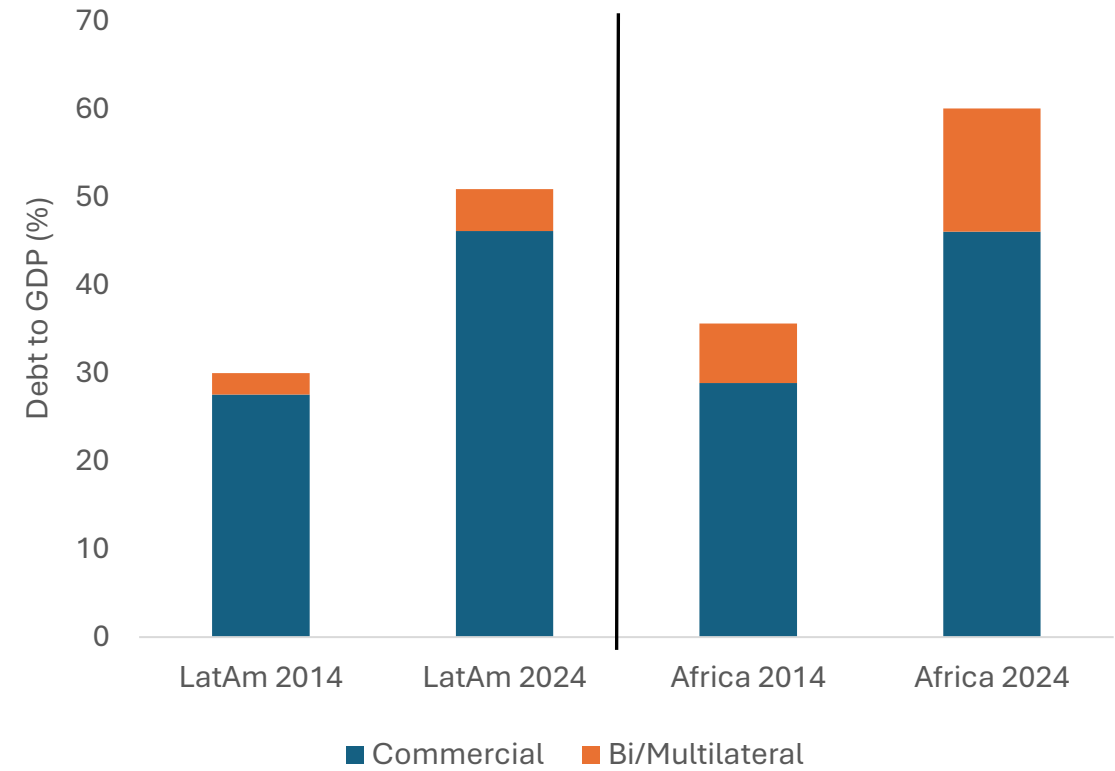
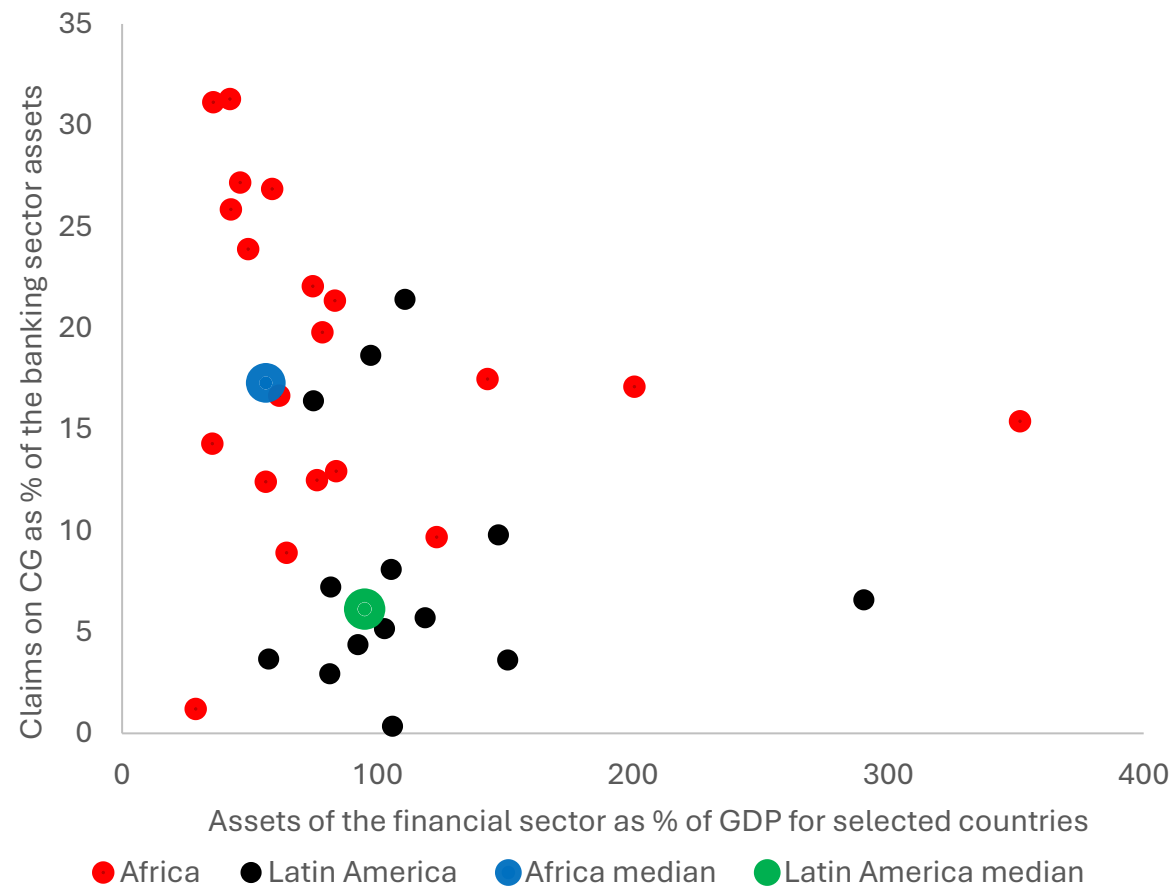
Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Copyright © 2025 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

African Sovereign Ratings | Domestic Financing Options Have Limitations

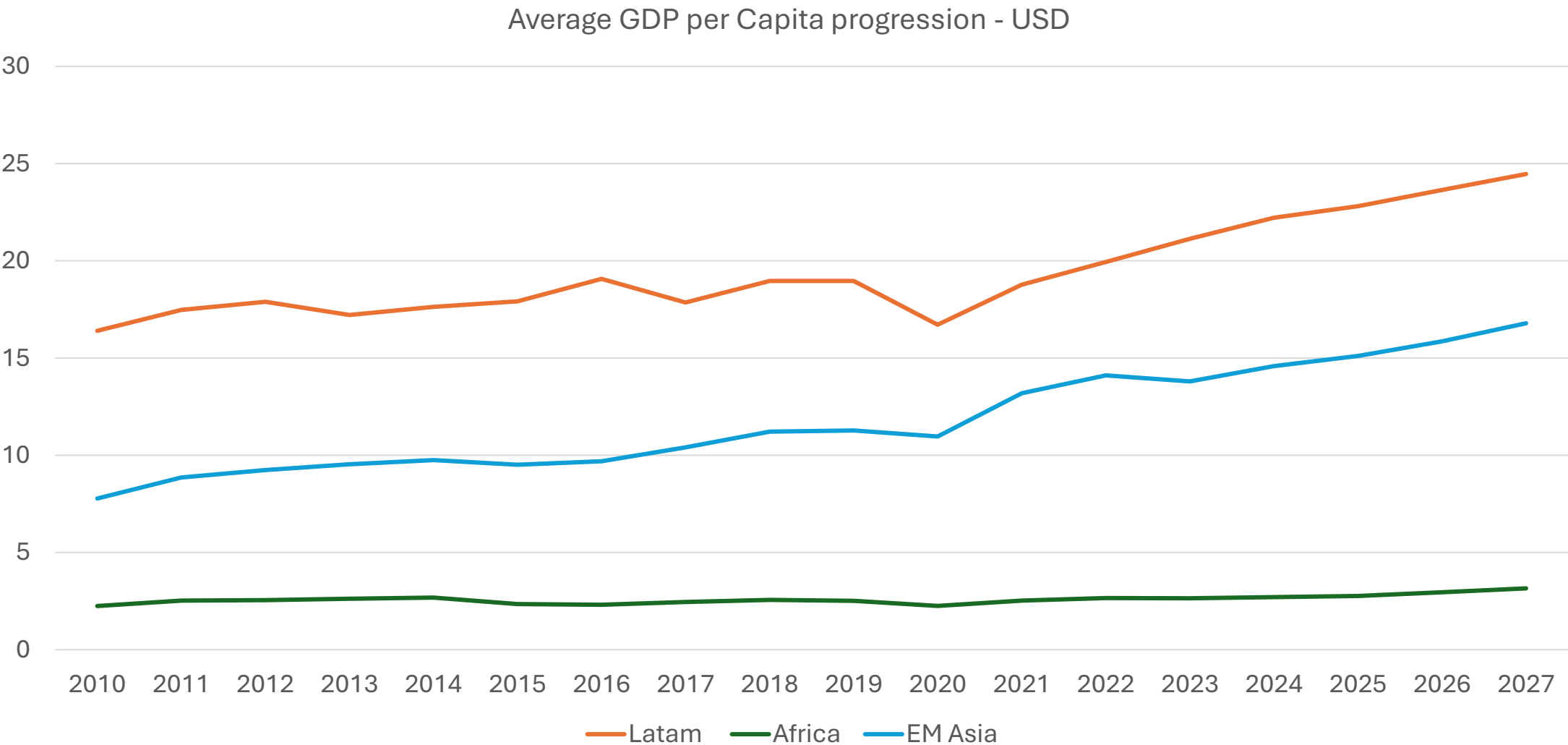
Financial markets are generally small and exposed to sovereign debt.

Concessional funding accounted for approximately 23% of rated Africa's GG debt in 2024 from 19% in 2014.



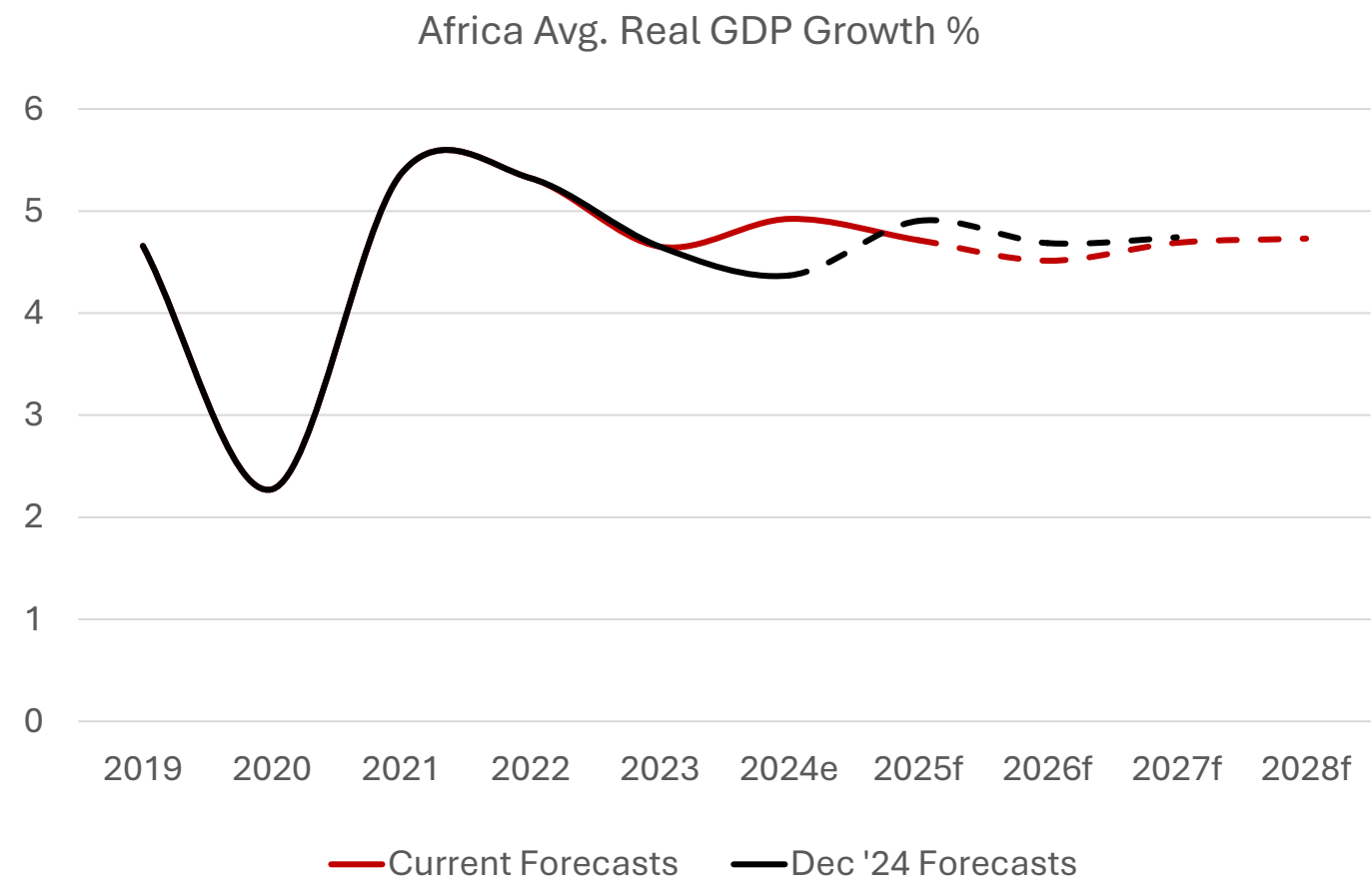
Source: IMF, S&P Global Ratings

African Sovereign Ratings | African Growth Performance vs. other EM regions



Source: S&P Global Ratings

African Sovereigns | Key Forecasts – Strong growth, weaker fiscal



	Regional Avg. Real GDP Growth % Assumptions	
	2025f	2026f
Africa	4.7	4.5
APac	4.9	4.2
LatAm	2.8	2.6

	Regional Avg. GG Deficit % GDP Assumptions	
	2025f	2026f
Africa	3.9	3.6
APac	3.3	3.1
LatAm	3.4	3.1

Source: S&P Global Ratings

APPENDIX

S&P Global
Ratings

Criteria explained Global FC Ratings Methodology

