

COUNTRY PROFILE: KENYA

Introduction

Kenya is situated on the East African coast and on the equator. To the north, it is bordered by South Sudan and Ethiopia, to the east by Somalia and the Indian Ocean, to the south by Tanzania, and to the west by Lake Victoria and Uganda. Kenya's geography supports abundant and varied wildlife of scientific and economic value.

Kenya is transforming politically and economically after 50 years of independence marked by mixed political and economic performance. Notwithstanding recent significant political, structural and economic reforms that have driven sustained growth, the country still faces considerable challenges including generating economic growth that is more inclusive in order to more effectively reduce poverty¹.

The government system is a republic and the chief of state and head of government is president Uhuru Kenyatta.

Kenya Vision 2030²

Launched in 2008, Kenya's long term development blue print, Vision 2030 aims to transform the country into an industrialized middle income country offering a high quality of life to its citizens. The three key pillars of this vision are:

- a sustained average economic growth rate of 10% p.a.
- just, cohesive and equitable social development in a clean and secure environment
- an issue-based, people-centred, results-oriented and accountable democracy.

The Vision is being implemented through successive five-year medium term plans. The Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) 2018-2022 is designed to achieve big four initiatives of the current administration ("Big Four" or B4): Industrialization, Manufacturing and Agro-processing; Affordable Housing; Food and Nutrition Security; and Universal Health Coverage.

Although environment does not feature in Vision 2030 as a pillar, environmental considerations are contained in the social and economic pillars as it emphasizes the need to conserve natural resources to support economic growth. The Kenyan Government has put in place a wide range of policy, institutional and legislative frameworks to address the major causes of environmental degradation and negative impacts on ecosystems emanating from industrial and economic development programmes. For forests, the goal is to increase area under forest (forest cover) to 10% by 2022 and sustainably manage natural forest resources for environmental protection and enhanced economic growth³.

Population & Human Development

Kenya has experienced high population growth as a result of its high birth rate and its declining mortality rate. Kenya was the first sub-Saharan country to launch a nationwide family planning programme but progress in reducing the birth rate has relatively stalled since the late 1990s⁴.

¹ African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Kenya 2014-2018. February 2014.

² [Third Medium Term Plan 2018 – 2022. Transforming Lives: Advancing socio-economic development through the "Big Four"](#) Accessed December 2019

³ [National strategy for achieving and maintaining over 10% tree cover by 2022.](#) Ministry of Environment and Forestry. May, 2019.

⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> Accessed December 2019

Kenya's HDI value for 2018 is 0.579— which put the country in the medium human development category—positioning it at 147 out of 189 countries and territories⁵. Between 1990 and 2018, Kenya's HDI value increased from 0.467 to 0.579, an increase of 23.9 percent, but it remains below the average for countries in the medium human development group (0.634) and above the average of 0.541 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

23.3 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 29.8 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 37.3 percent of their male counterparts. Female participation in the labour market is 63.6 percent compared to 69.1 for men.

Kenya managed to meet some Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets, including reduced child mortality, near universal primary school enrolment, and narrowed gender gaps in education. While the healthcare system has faced challenges recently, devolved health care and free maternal health care at all public health facilities are expected to improve health care outcomes and develop a more equitable health care system⁶.

Kenya's relative stability since its independence in 1963 has attracted hundreds of thousands of refugees escaping violent conflicts in neighboring countries; Kenya shelters nearly 475,000 refugees and asylum seekers as of March 2019⁷.

| Demographic and other development indicators | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Human Development Index (HDI) | 0.579 | Literacy rate (ages >15)(2014) | 78.7% |
| HDI rank | 147 | Mean years of schooling (2018) | 6.6 |
| Inequality-adjusted HDI | 0.43 | School enrollment primary (2017) | 105% |
| Population size (2018) | 51,393,010 | School enrollment secondary | n.a. |
| Population growth rate (2018) | 2.31% | Population living below income poverty line, PPP \$1.90 a day (2015) | 36.8% |
| Projected population in 2030 ⁸ | 66,450,000 | GNI per capita, PPP (current int. \$) | 3,430 |
| Urban population (2018) | 27% | Labour force (2017 est.) | 20,518,673 |
| Rural population (2018) | 73% | Labour force participation rate | 66.84% |
| Life expectancy at birth (2017) | 66 years | Unemployment rate (2018) | 9.31% |
| Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births) (2018) | 30.6 | Political rights (1=Most Free, 7=Least free) | 4 |
| Population using improved drinking water sources (2015) | 63.2% | Civil Liberties (1=Most Free, 7=Least free) | 4 |
| Population using improved sanitation facilities (2015) | 30.1% | Corruption perception index | 27/100 (144/180) |
| Population with access to electricity (2017) | 63.81% | CPIA gender equality rating (1=low to 6=high) | 3.5 |

Political context

Kenya has conducted regular elections since independence, usually every five years.

In August 2010, Kenya adopted a new constitution in a national referendum. The new constitution introduced additional checks and balances to executive power and devolved power and resources to 47 newly created counties. Uhuru Kenyatta won the first presidential election under the new constitution

⁵ http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/KEN.pdf Accessed December 2019

⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview>. Accessed December 2019

⁷ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> Accessed December 2019

⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, custom data acquired via website: <https://population.un.org/wpp/DataQuery/>

in March 2013⁹. In September 2017, presidential elections held the previous month were nullified by the Supreme Court, and a new presidential election was held on October 17, 2017. Kenyatta was sworn in for a second and final five-year term on November 28, 2017¹⁰.

Devolution remains the biggest gain from the August 2010 constitution, which ushered in a new political and economic governance system¹¹.

According to Freedom House, an independent watchdog organization, Kenya's political rights and civil liberties are seriously undermined by pervasive corruption and brutality by security forces (Kenya ranks 144th out of 180 countries on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018). However, the government has stepped-up anti-corruption efforts arresting and charging a number of high-profile officials, including Supreme Court Deputy Chief Justice. The country's media and civil society sectors are vibrant, even as journalists and human rights defenders remain vulnerable to restrictive laws and intimidation¹².

In international relations, Kenya is usually aligned with : the G-77, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group. The country belongs to the following international organizations and UN agencies (non-exhaustive list)¹³: ACP, AfDB, AU, Commonwealth of Nations (British), COMESA, EAC, EADB, ICC, ICRM, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO, WCO, FAO, IAEA, ICAO, WBG, ILO, IMF, IMO, ITU, UNESCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO.

Economic Overview

Kenya is an economic, financial, and transport hub of East Africa, and the region's 2nd largest economy after Ethiopia. Since 2014, Kenya has been ranked as a lower middle income country¹⁴.

While economic activity faltered following the 2008 global economic recession, growth resumed in the last five years reaching 5.9% in 2019 placing Kenya as one of the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa¹⁵. Looking ahead, medium-term gross GDP is expected to rise to 6.0% in 2020 underpinned by private consumption, a pick-up in industrial activity and strong performance in the services sector. Growth will also be driven by ongoing key investment to support implementation of the Big 4 development agenda¹⁶.

In 2017, Kenya launched a Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (GESIP) designed to support a globally competitive low carbon development path through promoting economic resilience and resource efficiency, sustainable management of natural resources, development of sustainable infrastructure, and providing support for social inclusion¹⁷.

⁹ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> Accessed December 2019

¹⁰ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview>. Accessed December 2019

¹¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview>. Accessed December 2019

¹² <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2019/kenya>. Accessed December 2019

¹³ ACP: African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States, AfDB: African Development Bank, AU: African Union, Commonwealth of Nations (British), COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, EAC: East African Community, EADB: East African Development Bank, ICC: International Chamber of Commerce, ICRM: International Red Cross and Red Crescent, Movement, Interpol: International Criminal Police Organization, IOC: International Olympic Committee, IOM: International Organization for Migration, ISO: International Organization for Standardization, WCO: World Customs Organization, CD: Conference on Disarmament, FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency, IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization, IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFC: International Finance Corporation, ILO: International Labor Organization, IMF: International Monetary Fund, IMO: International Maritime Organization, ITU: International Telecommunications Union, UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, WHO: World Health Organization, WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization, WMO: World Meteorological Organization, WTO: World Trade Organization.

¹⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> Accessed December 2019

¹⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview>. Accessed December 2019

¹⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview>. Accessed December 2019

¹⁷ Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan – Kenya 2016-2030. Government of Kenya http://www.environment.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/GESIP_Final23032017.pdf

| Main food crops | Tonnes | Hectares |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Maize | 3186000 | 2092459 |
| Potatoes | 1519870 | 192341 |
| Cassava | 1112000 | 90394 |
| Wheat | 165200 | 85732 |
| Sorghum | 144000 | 197052 |
| Rice, paddy | 81198 | 29880 |
| Vegetables (leguminous and fresh) | 609049 | 74365 |
| Main industrial crops | Tonnes | Hectares |
| Sugar cane | 4751609 | 67708 |
| Tea | 439857 | 218538 |
| Coconuts | 124382 | 59190 |
| Barley | 77000 | 21053 |
| Coffee, green | 40800 | 114700 |
| Sisal | 23555 | 26199 |
| Sunflower seed | 11479 | 11840 |
| Tobacco, unmanufactured | 8965 | 13383 |
| Pyrethrum, dried | 200 | 1466 |

2017 Data. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAOSTAT.

(beans, pigeon pea, cowpea, chickpea, green grams); and, roots and tubers (sweet potato, Irish potato, cassava, arrow root and yam). The main food crops are maize, rice, wheat, sorghum, potato, cassava, vegetables and beans²⁰.

The main industrial crops are tea, coffee, sugar cane, cotton, sunflower, pyrethrum, barley, tobacco, sisal, coconut and bixa and key livestock subsectors are beef, dairy, sheep, goats, camel, poultry, and piggery²¹.

Key challenges facing the sector, as articulated in the ASDS include: low production and productivity; inadequate budgetary allocations; reduced effectiveness of extension services; low absorption of modern technology; limited capital and access to affordable credit: pre- and post-harvest crop losses; heavy livestock losses to diseases and pests; low and declining soil fertility: lack of a coherent land policy; inadequate infrastructure; insufficient water storage infrastructure; inadequate storage and processing facilities and inadequate markets and marketing infrastructure²².

Infrastructure. Kenya has invested heavily in infrastructure development in recent years and the progress made has played a critical role in transforming the economy, enhancing domestic and regional connectivity and strengthening Kenya's position as a regional hub. Over the last five years, significant investment has gone into the upgrade of highways and has supported the construction of 1,304km of new roads, rehabilitation of 535km and periodic maintenance of 4,212km and routine maintenance of 154,198km. However, the country is still facing serious infrastructure deficits. This is exacerbated Kenya's growing need for infrastructure financing is estimated at between USD 7.4 and 8.3 billion a year²³.

Agriculture. The agriculture sector contributes 24 percent of Kenya's annual GDP, 65 percent of Kenya's total exports, and 18 percent and 60 percent of the formal and total employment respectively¹⁸. The agricultural sector comprises six subsectors—industrial crops, food crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries and forestry. The agricultural sector was identified as a key driver in achieving the 10 per cent annual economic growth rate envisaged under the economic pillar of Vision 2030. For this, the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy 2010-2020 (ASDS) outlines the necessary steps to transform smallholder agriculture from subsistence to an innovative, commercially oriented and modern agricultural sector¹⁹.

Food crops are classified into cereals (maize, wheat, sorghum, rice, millet); pulses

¹⁸ African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Kenya 2019 - 2023. April 2019.

¹⁹ [Agriculture Sector Development Strategy \(ASDS\)](#). Accessed December 2019

²⁰ [Agriculture Sector Development Strategy \(ASDS\)](#). Accessed December 2019

²¹ [Agriculture Sector Development Strategy \(ASDS\)](#). Accessed December 2019

²² African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Kenya 2019 - 2023. April 2019.

²³ African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Kenya 2019 - 2023. April 2019.

| Infrastructure ²⁴ | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Energy | | Transportation | |
| Electrification total population | 56% | Airports (with paved runway) | 197 (16) |
| Electrification urban areas | 77.6% | Railways (kms) (2017) | 3,819 |
| Electrification rural areas | 39.3% | Roadways (unpaved) (kms) | 177,800 (147,032) |
| Electricity generating capacity | 2.401 million kW | Waterways (kms) | - |
| Pipelines (kms) | 4 oil; 1432 ref. prod | Major seaports | Kisumu, Mombasa |

In June 2019, Kenya was ordered to halt construction of the country's first ever coal-powered plant near the coastal town of Lamu, a Unesco World Heritage Site, until an assessment is made of its environmental and cultural impact, in the latest setback to the \$2bn project^{25, 26}.

Manufacturing. The MTP-III aims to increase the contribution of the sector to the GDP from 9.2 per cent in 2016 to 15 per cent by 2022; create additional one million jobs yearly; increase level of Foreign Direct Investments to \$2 billion; and improve ease of doing business ranking from 80 in 2017 to 45 by 2022. The Sector is one of the "Big Four" initiatives. In 2017, the performance of the sector was mainly driven by textiles and apparels, pharmaceutical products, beverages, wood and wood products, and basic metals. The MTP-III outlines over 10 programmes and projects, as well as a number of policy reforms to achieve a robust, diversified and competitive manufacturing sector²⁷.

Mining. According to the latest economic survey, the mining sector contributes 0.8% to the country's GDP. The mining sector is governed by the 2016 Mining and Minerals Policy²⁸. Mineral resources in Kenya include gold, iron ore, talc, soda ash, some rare earth minerals and gemstones. Gold is mostly restricted to the westernmost part of the country, while areas around Mombasa host limestone, niobium, iron ore, gemstones and salt. Iron and steel accounted for 2.5% of Kenya's total exports in 2015; ilmenite, rutile, and zircon, a total of 1.9%; cement, 1.5%; soda ash, 1.2%; and other minerals and mineral products, including fluor spar, glassware, salt, sand and gravel, and stone, 1.5%. Petroleum products accounted for 14% of total imports in 2015; iron and steel, 5.6%; chemical fertilizers, 1.5%; and other mineral products and mineral fuels, 2%²⁹.

Tourism also holds a significant place in Kenya's economy. The sector relies on natural assets such as the wildlife living in their natural ecosystems, in game parks and reserves, the coastal beaches, and a rich and diverse cultural heritage. In spite of political turmoil throughout the second half of 2017, tourism was up 20%, showcasing the strength of this sector³⁰. Some high visibility terrorist attacks during 2013-2015 (e.g., at Nairobi's Westgate Mall and Garissa University) affected the tourism industry severely, but the sector rebounded strongly in 2016-2017 and appears poised to continue growing³¹.

| Top-10 export markets for goods and export goods in 2018 (\$) | | | |
|---|-------------|--|---------------|
| Uganda | 610,806,866 | Coffee, tea, mate and spices | 1,617,420,193 |
| Pakistan | 586,233,005 | Live trees, plants, bulbs, roots, cut flowers et | 625,784,489 |
| USA | 467,318,394 | Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc | 386,744,420 |

²⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> Accessed December 2019

²⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/jul/11/kenya-first-coal-plant-construction-paused-climate-victory>

²⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-48771519>

²⁷ [Third Medium Term Plan 2018 – 2022. Transforming Lives: Advancing socio-economic development through the "Big Four"](#)

Accessed December 2019

²⁸ <https://www.idlo.int/sites/default/files/pdfs/highlights/Kenya%20Mining%20Policy%20Popular%20Version-LowRes.pdf>

²⁹ Thomas R. Yager (2015). The mineral industry of Kenya. U.S Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook 2015 <https://prd-wret.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/atoms/files/myb3-2015-kenya.pdf> Accessed December 2019

³⁰ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> Accessed December 2019

³¹ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html> Accessed December 2019

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| Netherlands | 457,685,840 | Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers | 250,114,787 |
| United Kingdom | 396,749,296 | Edible fruit, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons | 232,544,229 |
| United Arab Emirates | 345,583,252 | Articles of apparel, accessories, not knit or crochet | 218,352,586 |
| Tanzania | 293,696,392 | Ores, slag and ash | 212,550,954 |
| Egypt | 198,661,513 | Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes | 139,674,716 |
| Rwanda | 176,126,284 | Pharmaceutical products | 130,158,107 |
| Dem. Rep. of the Congo | 149,817,844 | Articles of apparel, accessories, knit or crochet | 120,965,862 |
| Top-10 import markets for goods and import goods in 2018 | | | |
| China | 3,661,016,788 | Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc | 3,391,510,496 |
| India | 1,828,918,058 | Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc | 1,665,765,069 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1,705,025,700 | Vehicles other than railway, tramway | 1,228,148,328 |
| United Arab Emirates | 1,455,384,394 | Electrical, electronic equipment | 1,206,014,901 |
| Japan | 985,508,438 | Iron and steel | 860,532,111 |
| South Africa | 639,087,458 | Cereals | 843,242,342 |
| USA | 528,037,887 | Plastics and articles thereof | 769,488,180 |
| Uganda | 488,057,912 | Animal vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products, etc. | 567,731,138 |
| Germany | 460,055,037 | Pharmaceutical products | 558,596,712 |
| Indonesia | 455,171,872 | Paper & paperboard, articles of pulp and board | 423,102,931 |

International Trade in Goods and Services based on UN Comtrade data.

Developed by the Department for International Trade and the Dept. for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the UK.

<https://comtrade.un.org/labs/dit-trade-vis/?reporter=404&partner=0&type=C&year=2018&flow=2>

| Economic indicators 2018³² | |
|---|----------------|
| GDP (current US\$) | 87,908,262,520 |
| GDP growth (annual %) | 6.32 |
| Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP) | 34.19 |
| Industry (including construction), value added (% of GDP) | 16.39 |
| Services, value added (% of GDP) | 42.67 |
| Exports of goods and services (% of GDP) | 13.18 |
| Imports of goods and services (% of GDP) | 23.01 |
| Gross capital formation (% of GDP) | 17.33 |
| Domestic credit provided by financial sector (% of GDP) | 39.05 |
| Tax revenue (% of GDP)(2017) | 15.68 |
| Personal remittances, received (% of GDP) | 3.09 |
| Index of economic freedom in 2019 (rank in the world) ³³ | 55.1 (130) |

Environment

| Geography and land-use data³⁴ | |
|--|------------------|
| Land area (sq. km); surface (sq. km) | 569,140; 580,367 |
| Terrestrial protected areas (% of total land area) | 12.36 |
| Forest area (% of land area, 2017) | 7.75 |
| Primary Forest (% forest land, 2017) | 0 |
| Planted Forest (% forest land, 2017) | 4.99 |

³² World Development Indicators, The World Bank. Data retrieved December 2019

³³ <https://www.heritage.org/index/pdf/2019/countries/kenya.pdf> Accessed December 2019

³⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAOSTAT <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/EL> Accessed December 2019

| | |
|--|-------|
| Other naturally regenerated forest (% forest land, 2017) | 95.01 |
| Permanent cropland (% of land area) , 2017 | 0.93 |
| Arable land (% of land area, 2011) | 10.19 |
| Agricultural land (% of land area, 2017) | 48.55 |

The country is divided into five ecological zones namely Hyper Arid, Arid, Semi-Arid, Sub-Humid and Humid that include lowland and mountain forests, wooded and open grasslands, semi-arid scrubland, dry woodlands, inland aquatic, as well as coastal and marine ecosystems. The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) occupy about 83% of country's land surface area. The Great Rift Valley is a major landmark, running through the country from north to south.

In the highlands between elevations of 2,100 and 2,700 metres, the characteristic landscape consists of patches of evergreen forest separated by wide expanses of short grass. Above the forest, a zone of bamboo extends to about 3,000 metres, beyond which there is mountain moorland. East and west of the highlands, forests give way to low trees scattered through an even cover of short grass. Semidesert regions below 900 metres give rise to baobab trees. In still drier areas of the north, desert scrub occurs, exposing the bare ground. The vegetation of the coastal region is basically savanna with patches of residual forests³⁵.

Freshwater and saline ecosystems cover about 8% of Kenya's surface area. These are important areas of biodiversity, food production, hydrological stability, mineral cycling and socioeconomic development³⁶. There are no major groundwater basins, and, apart from the Tana River, most of the rivers in Kenya are short and often disappear during the dry season. Lake Victoria, with a surface area of 69,484 km², is the largest lake in Africa, and a major reservoir of the Nile River³⁷.

The climatic conditions vary from hot and dry in the north, warm and humid at the coast to cool and wet in the central highlands. The annual rainfall ranges from 200 mm in the arid and semi-arid regions to 1800 mm in the highlands.

Wildlife and protected areas

The major biodiversity concentration sites fall within the existing protected areas network (national parks, reserves and sanctuaries) which are mostly managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). However, over 70 percent of the national biodiversity occurs outside the protected areas³⁸, causing its status to quickly decline due to a number of threats that have led to numerous conservation challenges. It should be noted that biodiversity assessments are old which calls for an urgent re-assessment to ascertain the current status of biodiversity³⁹.

According to the Kenya state of the environment and outlook 2010, "Kenya's known biodiversity assets include 7 000 plants, 25 000 invertebrates (21 575 of which are insects), 1 133 birds, 315 mammals, 191 reptiles, 180 freshwater fish, 692 marine and brackish fish, 88 amphibians and about 2 000 species of fungi and bacteria. Kenya is ranked third in Africa in terms of mammalian species' richness with 14 of these species being endemic to the country". The country is famous for its diverse assemblage of large mammals like the African elephant, black rhino, leopard, buffalo and African lion⁴⁰.

³⁵ Encyclopaedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kenya> Accessed December 2019

³⁶ CBD Kenya Country Profile <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> Accessed December 2019

³⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kenya> Accessed December 2019

³⁸ Kenya state of the environment and outlook 2010. National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya, http://www.enviropulse.org/documents/Kenya_SOE.pdf

³⁹ CBD Kenya Country Profile <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> Accessed December 2019

⁴⁰ Kenya state of the environment and outlook 2010. National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya, http://www.enviropulse.org/documents/Kenya_SOE.pdf

Freshwater and saline lakes and associated wetlands constitute vital stepping stones along the migratory route of thousands of birds; marine waters and mangrove areas along the Kenyan coast are known to have rich biodiversity and provide local communities with timber, and fish constitute an important source of protein for coastal populations and a significant economic activity⁴¹.

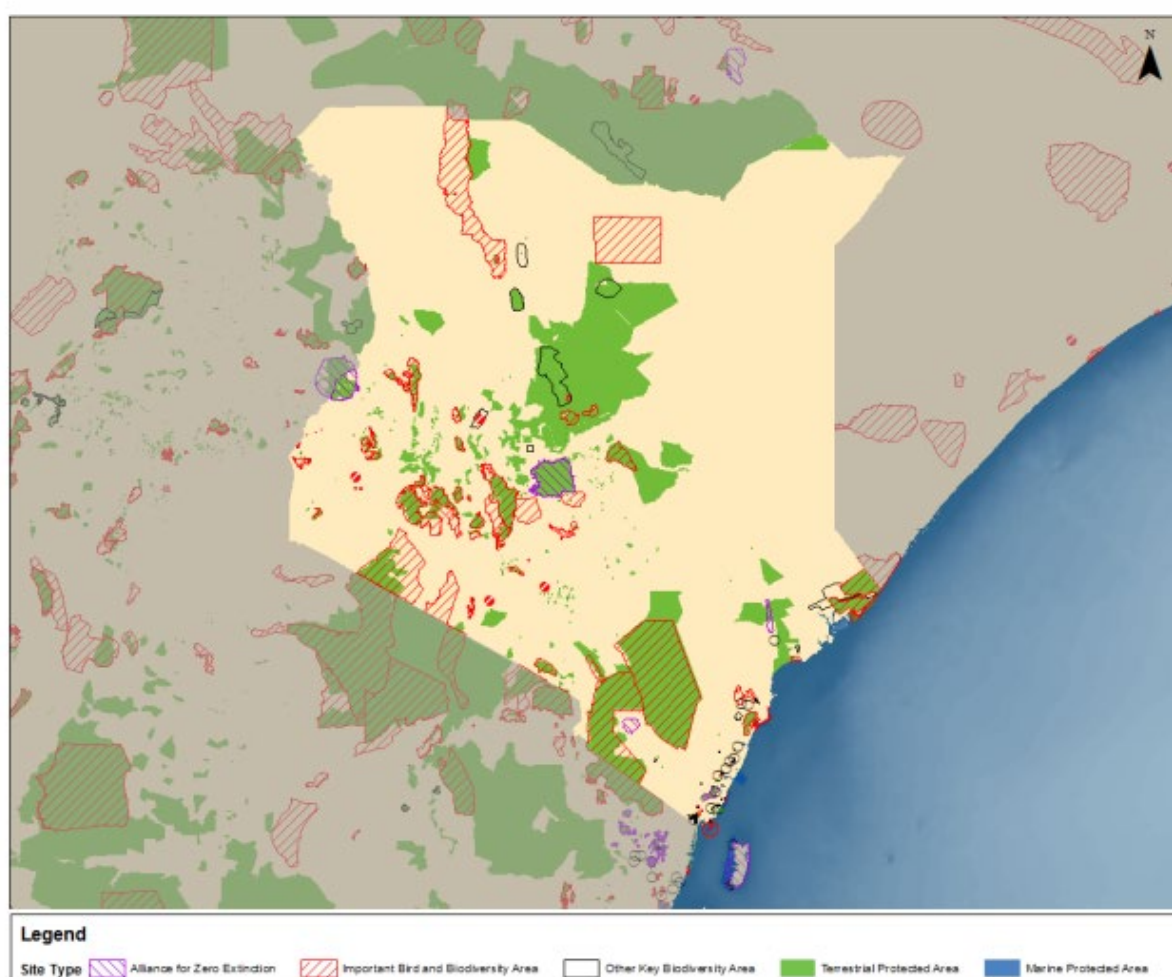
| Species with extinction risk assessments in Kenya published on the IUCN Red List | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Taxonomic group | Number assessed | Known threatened species |
| Amphibians | 103 | 11 |
| Birds | 1057 | 43 |
| Fishes | 1099 | 73 |
| Mammals | 380 | 30 |
| Reptiles | 95 | 12 |
| Arachnids | 6 | 0 |
| Corals | 279 | 43 |
| Crustaceans | 50 | 7 |
| Insects | 327 | 7 |
| Molluscs | 198 | 20 |
| Other invertebrates | 55 | 10 |
| Ferns | 24 | 7 |
| Flowering plants | 761 | 225 |
| Gymnosperms | 8 | 2 |
| Total | 4442 | 490 |
| Total endemic species assessed/threatened | 251 | 134 |

| Protected Areas | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Designation | Number |
| Community Conservancy | 21 |
| Community Nature Reserve | 28 |
| Community Wildlife Sanctuary | 1 |
| Forest Reserve | 234 |
| Game Sanctuary | 1 |
| Group Ranch | 1 |
| Locally Managed Marine Area | 9 |
| Marine National Park | 4 |
| Marine National Reserve | 5 |
| National Park (proposed) | 23 (1) |
| National Reserve | 31 |
| National Sanctuary | 6 |
| Nature Reserve | 2 |
| Not reported | 5 |
| Private Nature Reserve | 1 |
| Private Protected Area | 2 |
| Private Ranch | 4 |
| Private Reserve | 16 |
| Wildlife Sanctuary | 1 |

⁴¹ CBD Kenya Country Profile <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> Accessed December 2019

| | |
|---|------------|
| Ramsar Site | 6 |
| UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve | 6 |
| World Heritage Site | 3 |
| Coverage: 12.36% (terrestrial); 0.80% (Marine) | 411 |
| Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) | 118 |

Map showing the overlap between Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Areas.



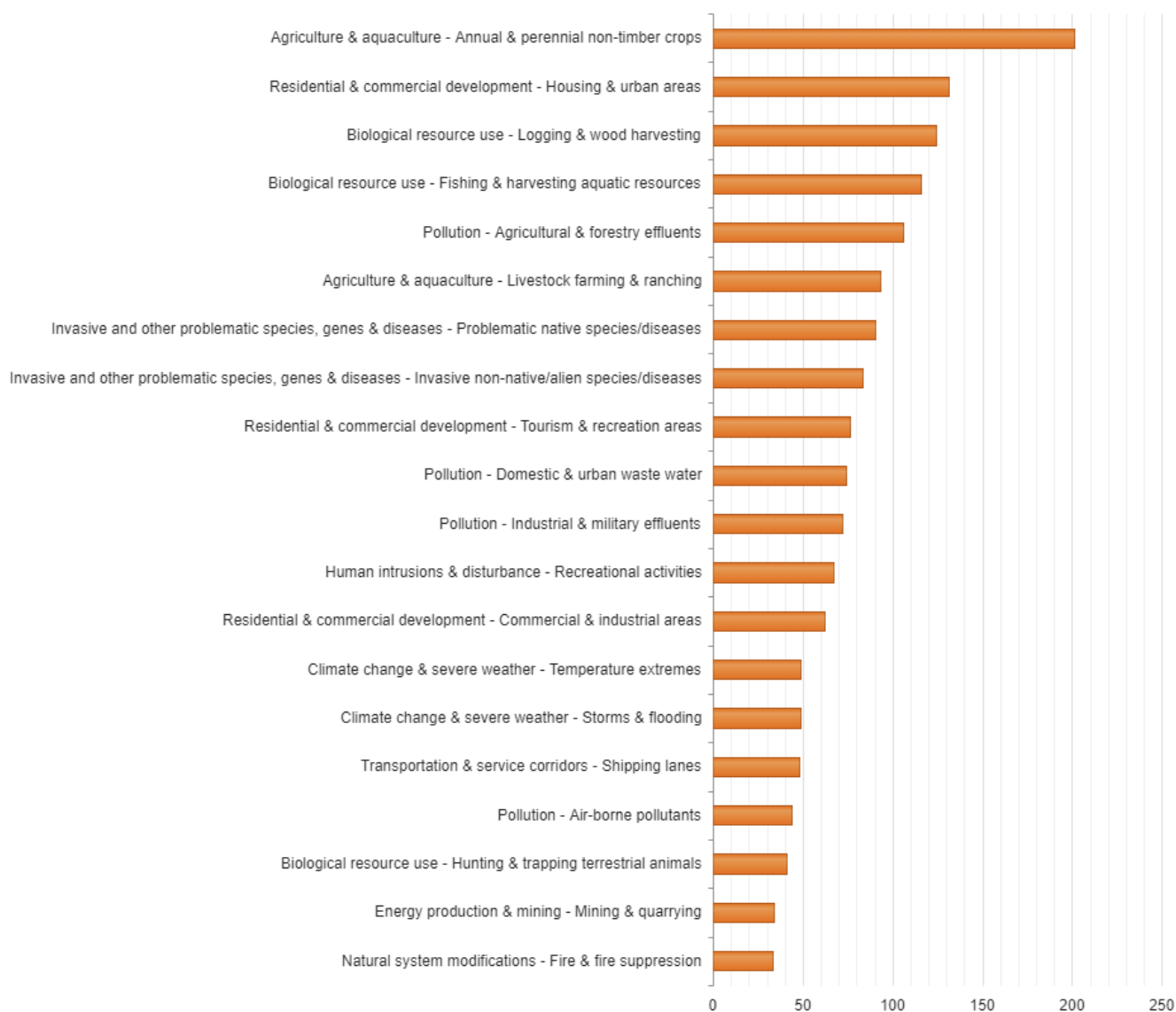
Main pressures and drivers of biodiversity loss

The Red List Index for Kenya exhibits a downward trend, indicating declining aggregate survival probability of the country's species, and it is currently at 0.8.

The major threats to biodiversity in Kenya are high population pressure; escalating poverty and conflicts, including human-wildlife conflict; poor land use practices resulting in land degradation and pollution; inadequate laws, policies and institutional framework; poor education and inadequate involvement of the community, and invasive species (e.g. Nile perch and water hyacinth in Lake Victoria). In addition, the tourism industry is encroaching on the fragile marine and coastal areas with the development of new hotels and access infrastructure. Climate change is increasingly contributing to biodiversity degradation on Kenya's coast and corals⁴².

⁴² CBD Kenya Country Profile <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> Accessed December 2019

Data provided by the IBAT Country Profile for Kenya identifies the global threats to species occurring in the country. The major threats relate to agriculture (crops and livestock farming and ranching), followed by residential & commercial development, biological resource use, pollution, invasive and other problematic species, climate change, energy production and mining



National legal environmental framework

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is charged with the coordination and establishment of an appropriate legal and institutional framework for the management and conservation of biological diversity⁴³.

The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) came into force in 1999 and its main function is to provide for the establishment of an appropriate legal and institutional framework for the management of the environment. The Act is administered by the National Environmental Council and implemented by the NEMA.

⁴³ CBD Kenya Country Profile <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> Accessed December 2019

Since the adoption of the Constitution of 2010, Kenya has taken significant steps toward codifying conservation and wildlife protection into a wildlife policy and legal framework. The Environmental Management and Coordination Act 1999 and Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013 were reviewed. In addition, the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016, Natural Resources Act, 2016, Water Act 2016, and Climate Change Act 2016 were enacted. The NEMA was also accredited as a National Implementing Entity for the Green Climate Fund. Each of the 47 counties developed a county Environmental Action Plan⁴⁴.

Other pieces of applicable legislation include the Fisheries Act, Government Fisheries Protection Act, as well as the Intellectual Properties Rights Act that recognizes local knowledge and the rights of communities to genetic resources and to benefits derived from tourism in their areas⁴⁵.

Although several ministries have environment in their portfolio, awareness of what each ministry is doing and how synergies can be achieved, remain a challenge due a lack of horizontal cooperation and ineffective partnerships among stakeholders⁴⁶.

International legal framework

Kenya is party of the following conventions of which the following have impacts on biodiversity (non-exhaustive):

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)
- Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- Montreal Protocol (Ozone Layer Protection)
- Ramsar (Wetlands)
- Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas
- World Heritage Convention (WHC)
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (IWC)

National Commitments in Rio Conventions

In fulfilling its international obligations in these agreements, the country has submitted a number of national targets and/or plans to implement them.

Convention on Biological Diversity – NBSAP

Kenya submitted its NBSAP in May 2000. Kenya's national vision is that there will be a healthy environment providing abundant biodiversity resources. After detailing the preparatory process, guiding principles and giving the status of Kenya's biodiversity, the NBSAP consists of a National Strategy and an Action Plan. The latter identified policy objectives and actions to be carried out over 5 years with the aim of enhancing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Strategy addresses each article of the Convention systematically, stating what needs to be done, in order to mitigate the threats to biodiversity. The goals of Kenya's NBSAP are: to ensure and maintain a high quality environment for sustainable livelihoods for all Kenyans; to guarantee inter- and intra-generational sustainable use of natural resources and services; to

⁴⁴ Government of Kenya (2018). Marking 10 years of progress (2008-2018). Sector Progress & Project Updates. <http://vision2030.go.ke/inc/uploads/2018/09/Kenya-Vision-2030-Sector-Progress-Project-Updates-June-2018.pdf> Accessed December 2019

⁴⁵ CBD Kenya Country Profile <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> Accessed December 2019

⁴⁶ CBD Kenya Country Profile <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> Accessed December 2019

maintain ecological and ecosystem processes; to preserve and benefit from genetic resources and biological diversity in the nation's ecosystems and to preserve their cultural value.

Kenya's NBSAP's revision is underway.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - NDC⁴⁷

Kenya submitted its First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in response to the decision of the Conference of the Parties, in December 2016.

Kenya commitment is to abate its GHG emissions by 30% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario of 143 MtCO₂eq; and in line with its sustainable development agenda. This is also subject to international support in the form of finance, investment, technology development and transfer, and capacity building. Most of the proposed mitigation activities are in the energy and transport sectors.

The NDC also has an adaptation component in which Kenya will ensure enhanced resilience to climate change towards the attainment of Vision 2030 by mainstreaming climate change adaptation into the Medium Term Plans (MTPs) and implementing adaptation actions. Any reasonable achievement of the adaptation goal will require financial, technology and capacity building support.

A number of existing policies, strategies and action plans support the implementation of the NDC - National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS 2010), National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP 2013), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and a Climate Change Act (2016).

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification – LDN target

Kenya is among the countries committed to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030.

In addition to its commitments to the Rio Conventions, Kenya developed and is implementing a National Strategy for achieving and maintaining over 10% of tree cover by 2022. It has also pledged to restore 5.1 million hectares by 2030 as part of its contribution to the Africa Forest Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and the Bonn Challenge.

⁴⁷ Kenya INDC