

# Kenya

## Geography

Location: Eastern Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean, between Somalia and Tanzania

Area:

total area: 582,650 sq km

land area: 569,250 sq km

Land boundaries: total 3,446 km, Ethiopia 830 km, Somalia 682 km, Sudan 232 km, Tanzania 769 km, Uganda 933 km

Coastline: 536 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: varies from tropical along coast to arid in interior

Terrain: low plains rise to central highlands bisected by Great Rift Valley; fertile plateau in west

Natural resources: gold, limestone, soda ash, salt barytes, rubies, fluorspar, garnets, wildlife

Land use:

arable land: 3%

permanent crops: 1%

meadows and pastures: 7%

forest and woodland: 4%

other: 85%

Irrigated land: 520 sq km (1989)

Environment:

current issues: water pollution from urban and industrial wastes; degradation of water quality from increased use of pesticides and fertilizers; deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; poaching

Note: the Kenyan Highlands comprise one of the most successful agricultural production regions in Africa; glaciers on Mt. Kenya; unique physiography supports abundant and varied wildlife of scientific and economic value

## People

Population: 28,817,227 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 48% (female 6,841,235; male 6,957,908)

15-64 years: 50% (female 7,277,061; male 7,085,925)

65 years and over: 2% (female 359,659; male 295,439) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.99% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 41.66 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 12.04 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -19.69 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 73.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
total population: 52.41 years  
male: 50.72 years  
female: 54.16 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 5.76 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Kenyan(s)  
adjective: Kenyan

Ethnic divisions: Kikuyu 22%, Luhya 14%, Luo 13%, Kalenjin 12%,  
Kamba 11%, Kisii 6%, Meru 6%, Asian, European, and Arab 1%,  
other 15%

Religions: Protestant (including Anglican) 38%, Roman Catholic  
28%, indigenous beliefs 26%, other 8%

Languages: English (official), Swahili (official), numerous indigenous languages

Literacy:

total population: 71%

male: 81%

female: 62%

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Kenya

conventional short form: Kenya

former: British East Africa

Type: republic

Capital: Nairobi

Independence: 12 December 1963 (from UK)

National holiday: Independence Day, 12 December (1963)

Constitution: 12 December 1963, amended as a republic 1964; reissued with amendments 1979, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1991, and 1992

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of black (top), red, and green; the red band is edged in white; a large warrior's shield covering crossed spears is superimposed at the center

## Economy

Industries: small-scale consumer goods (plastic, furniture, batteries, textiles, soap, cigarettes, flour), processing agricultural products, oil refining, cement, tourism

Agriculture: most important sector, accounting for 27% of GDP and 65% of exports; cash crops - coffee, tea; food products - corn,

wheat, sugarcane, fruit, vegetables, dairy products, beef, pork, poultry, eggs

Illicit drugs: widespread harvesting of small, wild plots of marijuana and qat; most locally consumed; transit country for Southwest Asian heroin moving to West Africa and onward to Europe and North America; Indian methaqualone also transits on way to South Africa

## Transportation

Railroads:

total: 2,650 km

Highways:

total: 64,590 km

Inland waterways: part of Lake Victoria system is within boundaries of Kenya

Pipelines: petroleum products 483 km

Ports: Kisumu, Lamu, Mombasa

Airports:  
total: 246

Defense Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, paramilitary General Service Unit  
of the Police