**Region: Coastal East Africa**

Countries Include: Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania

**Biodiversity and Global Environmental Benefits Regional Highlights:**

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| Country | Country-level biodiversity significance |
| Kenya | * Located below the Horn of Africa, Kenya has a large diversity of ecosystem zones, including: lowland and mountain forests, grasslands, semi-arid scrublands, dry woodlands, and inland aquatic, coastal and marine systems. Forests in Kenya critically provide ecosystem services of livelihood provision (food, medecine, fuel and water), as well as habitats for a range of species.[[1]](#footnote-0) The government of Kenya utilizes an ecosystem approach to protect the country’s landscapes and species, but does not have conservation priorities mainstreamed in national legislation.[[2]](#footnote-1) There are a number of endemic species to Kenya’s ecosystems, most of which are located along the Southern coast and in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot—documentation from CEPF is found [here](https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/eastern_afromontane_ecosystem_profile_final.pdf). This distribution is matched in the geographic scope of species range-size rarity. * Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within the country are protected at a rate below the global average, 37.91 to 44 percent, respectively. Large KBAs outside of/or partially within Protected Areas (PAs) are found throughout the country and include: [Dida Galgalu desert](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6417), [South Nguruman](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6446), [Tana River Delta](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6412), [Mukurweini valleys](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6396), and [Mumoni Hill Forest Reserve](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/45610). PA protection of KBAs has risen from 2000, from 35.17 percent. * Prioritization mapping efforts of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, have identified 3 terrestrial and 1 freshwater KBAs in Kenya which are Priority 1, comprising 7.7 and 5.5 percent (3/39 and 1/18) respectively of the hotspot total. Based on relative biological importance the following KBAs were highlighted as top priority in Kenya: Lake Chala and Lake Jipe Catchment; Mount Elgon; Mount Kenya; and Taita Hills Forests Kenya. * ICCAs provide a vital role in Kenya linking conservation with realization of Indigenous and Local Community rights, specific details from ICCA Registry are found: [Il Ngwesi](http://www.iccaregistry.org/en/explore/Kenya/il-ngwesi); [Kaya Kinondo](http://www.iccaregistry.org/en/explore/Kenya/kaya-kinondo); [Muliru Farmers Conservation Group](http://www.iccaregistry.org/fr/explore/Kenya/muliru-farmers-conservation-group). [IWGIA’s Country Technical Notes on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues](https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/40224744) provides recent context on the Indigenous Peoples of Kenya. * Stores of irrecoverable carbon are moderate throughout the country but concentrations are found in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot. * The primary land cover types are Shrubland - 28.0Mha; Agriculture - 14.5Mha; Grassland - 8.63Mha; Forest - 3.05Mha; Bare - 1.88Mha; Water - 1.23Mha; and Wetland - 1.02Mha. * Kenya has 6 ramsar sites with additional context [here](https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsiswp_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-Kenya.pdf?). * Kenya is below the global average in ocean health, with gaps in sustainable food provision and clean waters. The freshwater and saline lakes/associated wetlands are crucially important for migratory birds; and the mangrove forests and coral reefs along the southern coast of Kenya have exceptional biodiversity, though increasingly degrading due to anthropogenic pressures. |
| Mozambique | * Located on the Southeast coast of Africa, Mozambique has extensive ecological and species diversity. The country is separated into five phytogeographical regions, dominated by Miombo, Mopane, undifferentiated woodlands and coastal mosaics.[[3]](#footnote-2) There are three biodiversity hotspots in the country, the Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa, the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and the Eastern Afromontane. Additionally the Zambezian Coastal Flooded Savannah is an exclusive ecoregion to Mozambique. The country’s coastal environment is particularly rich, with mangroves covering 400 kHa of area, and nearly 2,000 km2 of coral reefs.[[4]](#footnote-3) * There are a number of endemic species to Mozambique’s ecosystems, most of which are located along the coast of Zimbabwe and Zambezia Province, as well as areas part of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot—documentation from CEPF is found [here](https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/eastern_afromontane_ecosystem_profile_final.pdf). This distribution is matched in the geographic scope of species range-size rarity. * Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within the country are protected at a rate below the global average, 31.31 to 44 percent, respectively. Large KBAs outside of/or partially within Protected Areas (PAs) clustered in the South of the country, particularly Maputo and Gaza Province and include: [Panda Brachystegia woodlands](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6687), [Xai-xai and Limpopo floodplain](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/45562), [Manhica](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/45560), [Namaacha](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/45555), and [Pomene](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6689). PA protection of KBAs has risen from 2000, from 18.78 percent. * Prioritization mapping efforts have been primarily from academic and conservation sources and include: a [coastal resilience to climate change modelling effort using InVEST](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2212420916306197) to identify areas of high coastal conservation priority, a study on [ecosystem services in the Northern Mozambique Channel](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2212041618301372), Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity’s (BIOFUND) [protected areas management database](http://www.biofund.org.mz/en/database/platform-of-the-conservation-areas/), [knowledge gaps of terrestrial mammals,](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-54590-4) and [Lessons on integrated conservation management with local communities](http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/199741449520242770/Conservation-and-Development-in-Mozambique-TFCA-2015.pdf) from the Mozambique Conservation Areas for Biodiversity and Development (MozBio) project. * Prioritization mapping efforts of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, have identified 3 terrestrial and 1 freshwater KBAs in Mozambique which are Priority 1, comprising 7.7 and 5.5 percent (3/39 and 1/18) respectively of the hotspot total. Based on relative biological importance the following KBAs were highlighted as top priority in Mozambique: Lake Nyasa; Mount Mabu; and Mount Namuli.[[5]](#footnote-4) * CEPF prioritization mapping is less detailed for the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests, and decidedly less so for Mozambique. As Northern Mozambique has been less mapped than Tanzania and Kenya, the limited information provided indicates that regionally “amongst the vertebrates, 7 percent of forest mammals, 10 percent of forest birds, 57 percent of forest reptiles and 36 percent of 13 forest amphibians are endemic.”[[6]](#footnote-5) * Stores of irrecoverable carbon are low throughout most of the country, but have a concentration along the coast particularly along the coasts of Zambezia and Sofala Province. * The primary land cover types are Forest - 47.1Mha; Shrubland - 16.3Mha; Agriculture - 12.0Mha; Grassland - 2.94Mha; Wetland - 2.42Mha; Water - 921kha; and Bare - 614kha. * Mozambique has 6 ramsar sites with additional context [here](https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsiswp_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-Mozambique.pdf). * Mozambique is below the global average in ocean health, with gaps in sustainable food provision, artisanal fishing opportunities and clean waters. |
| Tanzania | * Tanzania is a country of high biodiversity and conservation importance, containing six biodiversity hotspots: Eastern Arc old Block-Mountain Forests; the coastal forests; the Great Lakes for Cichlid fishes; the marine coral reef ecosystems; the ecosystems of the alkaline Rift-Valley Lakes; and the grassland savannas for large mammals (Serengeti National Park).[[7]](#footnote-6) The Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests hotspot is profiled in detail [here](https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/final.easternarc.ep_.pdf). * There are a number of endemic species to Tanzania’s ecosystems, most of which are located in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot—documentation from CEPF is found [here](https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/eastern_afromontane_ecosystem_profile_final.pdf). This distribution is matched in the geographic scope of species range-size rarity, and follows the KBA landscape of Tanzania through the center of the country, North along the border with Kenya and West bordering Lake Tanganyika. * Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within the country are protected at a rate just above the global average, 57.03 to 44 percent, respectively. Large KBAs outside of/or partially within Protected Areas (PAs) are found throughout the country, with a concentration around Lake Victoria and include: [Wembere steppe](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/7006), [Kagera swamps](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6987), [Lake Victoria: Bumbire Islands](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/7002), and [Mori Bay](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/46996). PA protection of KBAs has risen from 2000, from 50.09 percent. * Prioritization mapping efforts of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, have identified 8 terrestrial and 3 freshwater KBAs in Tanzania which are Priority 1, comprising 20.5 and 16.6 percent (8/39 and 3/18) respectively of the hotspot total. Based on relative biological importance the following KBAs were highlighted as top priority in Tanzania: East Usambara Mountains; Lake Chala and Lake Jipe Catchment; Lake Tanganyika; Malagarasi River System; Mount Rungwe; Nguru Mountains; Rubeho Mountains; Udzungwa Mountains; Ukaguru Mountains; Uluguru Mountains; and West Usambara Mountains. * CEPF prioritization mapping is less detailed for the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests, but in the Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable species compendium they highlight that Tanzania holds more species than Kenya (148 to 79 respectively). A financial flows analysis found that the Udzungwa Mountains have received the most conservation attention, followed by the East and West Usambaras and the Ulugurus; while in the coastal forests the IBAs of Kilwa and Rufiji Districts have received the most attention.[[8]](#footnote-7) * [IWGIA’s Country Technical Notes on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40224460/tanzania.pdf/59a6ddbc-fb50-4ae0-a4df-9277a89152d7) provides recent context on the Indigenous Peoples of Tanzania. * Stores of irrecoverable carbon are moderate throughout the country but concentrations are found in the West of the country along the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot and the Southern Coast. * The primary land cover types are Forest - 35.2Mha; Agriculture - 26.9Mha; Shrubland - 18.7Mha; Water - 6.07Mha; Wetland - 5.28Mha; Grassland - 2.74Mha; Bare - 258kha. * Tanzania has 4 ramsar sites with additional context [here](https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsiswp_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-United-Republic-of-Tanzania.pdf?). * Tanzania is just below the global average in ocean health, with gaps in sustainable food provision and clean waters. |

1. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ke/ke-nr-05-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=mz> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mz/mz-nr-05-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Though CEPF identified four priority 1 areas, they only list three.

   <https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/eastern_afromontane_ecosystem_profile_final.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. <https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/final.easternarc.ep_.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=tz> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. <https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/final.easternarc.ep_.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)