**Region: Coastal East Africa**

Countries Include: Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania

**Threats to Biodiversity, Environment, and IPLC Regional Context:**

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| Country | Threats to biodiversity and environment | Threats to IPLCs, and Root Causes |
| Kenya | * The major threats to biological diversity in Kenya can be defined as: high population pressure; escalating poverty and conflicts; poor land use practices; inadequate laws, policies and institutional framework; poor education and inadequate involvement of the community. Other threats are invasive species (e.g. Nile perch and water hyacinth in Lake Victoria), land degradation and pollution, occasioned by poor land use practices. In addition, the tourism industry is encroaching on the fragile marine and coastal areas with the development of new hotels and access infrastructure.[[1]](#footnote-0) * From 2001 to 2018, Kenya lost 326kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 9.8 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 103Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Kenya, the top 10 regions were responsible for 56 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Uasin Gishu had the most relative tree cover loss at 32 percent compared to an average of 8.7 percent. | * Kenya is ranked 29th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It has been unevenly improving across economic, social and political indicators since 2010 - but worsening or stagnating along cohesion indicators. * According to Global Witness, at least 4 land defenders were killed in Kenya between 2016-2018. |
| Mozambique | * Major threats to biodiversity are population increase, development and past political instability which have all led to habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as to great changes in the number and distribution of large terrestrial mammals. During the civil war period, terrestrial fauna suffered a massive decline however, since 1992, the Government has been directing efforts towards the recovery of lost populations, especially within conservation areas.[[2]](#footnote-1) * From 2001 to 2018, Mozambique lost 3.05Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 11 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 758Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Mozambique, the top 3 regions were responsible for 54 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Nampula had the most relative tree cover loss at 17 percent compared to an average of 9.8 percent. | * Mozambique is ranked 35th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It has been progressively worsening across all economic, social, political and cohesion indicators for the past decade. The one area of improvement during this time has been human rights. * According to Global Witness, at least 1 land defender has been killed in Mozambique between 2016-2018. |
| Tanzania | * The core problems are defined as overgrazing, resource overexploitation, bushfires and the population’s dependency on fuel wood. Other factors affecting biodiversity and conservation include: poverty, inadequate information on genetic resources, inadequate awareness of communities on biodiversity conservation, inadequate alternative energy sources, influx of refugees, introduction of alien species {e.g. Nile perch (Lates niloticus), water hyacinth (Eichhromia crassipes)}, some illegal fishing, cultural belief, degradation of water quality, deforestation, illegal hunting and logging, unplanned human settlement developments and livestock migration.[[3]](#footnote-2) * From 2001 to 2018, Tanzania lost 2.37Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 9.0 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 565Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Tanzania, the top 11 regions were responsible for 38 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Dar es Salaam had the most relative tree cover loss at 33 percent compared to an average of 12 percent. | * Tanzania is ranked 35th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It has been worsening along most economic, social and political indicators for the past decade with only recent minor improvements since 2018-2019. It has remained mostly unchanged along cohesion indicators, with the exception of some improvements on group grievance. * According to Global Witness, at least 2 land defenders were killed in Tanzania between 2016-2018. |

1. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ke#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=mz#facts [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=tz#facts [↑](#footnote-ref-2)