[Template:For](/wiki/Template:For" \o "Template:For) [Template:Pp-protected](/wiki/Template:Pp-protected) [Template:EngvarB](/wiki/Template:EngvarB) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Kenya** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:IPA-all](/wiki/Template:IPA-all)), officially the **Republic of Kenya**, is a country in Africa and a founding member of the [East African Community](/wiki/East_African_Community) (EAC). Its capital and largest city is [Nairobi](/wiki/Nairobi). Kenya's territory lies on the [equator](/wiki/Equator) and overlies the [East African Rift](/wiki/East_African_Rift) covering a diverse and expansive terrain that extends roughly from [Lake Victoria](/wiki/Lake_Victoria) to [Lake Turkana](/wiki/Lake_Turkana) (formerly called [Lake Rudolf](/wiki/Lake_Rudolph)) and further south-east to the [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean). It is bordered by [Tanzania](/wiki/Tanzania) to the south, [Uganda](/wiki/Uganda) to the west, [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan) to the north-west, [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia) to the north and [Somalia](/wiki/Somalia) to the north-east. Kenya covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and had a population of approximately 45 million people in July 2014.<ref name=cia/>

Kenya has a warm and humid tropical climate on its [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean) coastline. The climate is cooler in the [savannah](/wiki/Savannah) grasslands around the capital city, Nairobi, and especially closer to [Mount Kenya](/wiki/Mount_Kenya), which has snow permanently on its peaks. Further inland, in the [Nyanza](/wiki/Nyanza_Province) region, there is a hot and dry climate which becomes humid around [Lake Victoria](/wiki/Lake_Victoria), the largest tropical fresh-water lake in the world. This gives way to temperate and forested hilly areas in the neighbouring western region. The north-eastern regions along the border with Somalia and Ethiopia are [arid](/wiki/Arid) and [semi-arid](/wiki/Semi-arid) areas with near-[desert](/wiki/Desert) landscapes. Kenya is known for its [safaris](/wiki/Safari), diverse climate and geography, and expansive wildlife reserves and national parks such as the [East](/wiki/Tsavo_East_National_Park) and [West Tsavo National Park](/wiki/Tsavo_West_National_Park), the [Maasai Mara](/wiki/Maasai_Mara), [Lake Nakuru National Park](/wiki/Lake_Nakuru_National_Park), and [Aberdares National Park](/wiki/Aberdares_National_Park). Kenya has several world heritage sites such as [Lamu](/wiki/Lamu) and numerous beaches, including in [Diani](/wiki/Diani), [Bamburi](/wiki/Bamburi) and [Kilifi](/wiki/Kilifi), where international yachting competitions are held every year.

The [African Great Lakes](/wiki/African_Great_Lakes) region, which Kenya is a part of, has been inhabited by humans since the [Lower Paleolithic](/wiki/Lower_Paleolithic) period. By the first millennium AD, the [Bantu expansion](/wiki/Bantu_expansion) had reached the area from [West](/wiki/West_Africa)-Central Africa. The borders of the modern state consequently comprise the crossroads of the [Niger-Congo](/wiki/Niger-Congo_languages), [Nilo-Saharan](/wiki/Nilo-Saharan_languages) and [Afroasiatic](/wiki/Afroasiatic_languages) areas of the continent, representing most major ethnolinguistic groups found in Africa. [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_peoples) and [Nilotic](/wiki/Nilotic_peoples) populations together constitute around 97% of the nation's residents.[[1]](#cite_note-1) European and Arab presence in coastal [Mombasa](/wiki/Mombasa) dates to the Early Modern period; [European exploration of the interior](/wiki/European_exploration_of_Africa) began in the 19th century. The [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire) established the [East Africa Protectorate](/wiki/East_Africa_Protectorate) in 1895, which starting in 1920 gave way to the [Kenya Colony](/wiki/Kenya_Colony). Kenya obtained independence in December 1963. Following a referendum in August 2010 and adoption of a new [constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Kenya), Kenya is now divided into 47 semi-autonomous [counties](/wiki/Counties_of_Kenya), governed by elected governors.

The capital, [Nairobi](/wiki/Nairobi), is a regional commercial hub. The [economy of Kenya](/wiki/Economy_of_Kenya) is the largest by GDP in East and Central Africa.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) Agriculture is a major employer; the country traditionally exports tea and coffee and has more recently begun to export fresh flowers to Europe. The [service industry](/wiki/Service_industry) is also a major economic driver. Additionally, Kenya is a member of the [East African Community](/wiki/East_African_Community) trading bloc.

## Contents

* 1 Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 Neolithic[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.3 Swahili culture and trade (1st century–19th century)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.4 British Kenya (1888–1962)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
    - 2.4.1 Mau Mau Uprising (1952–1959)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.5 Independent Kenya (1963)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
    - 2.5.1 Moi era (1978–2002)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
    - 2.5.2 2000s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
* 3 Geography and climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 3.1 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 3.2 Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
* 4 Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 4.1 2007 elections[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 4.2 2008[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 4.3 Grand coalition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 4.4 2013 elections and new government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 4.5 Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 4.6 Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 4.7 Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
  + 4.8 Industry and manufacturing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
  + 4.9 Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
  + 4.10 Overall Chinese investment and trade[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
  + 4.11 Vision 2030[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
  + 4.12 Oil exploration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
  + 4.13 Child labour and prostitution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]
  + 4.14 Microfinance in Kenya[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The Republic of Kenya is named after [Mount Kenya](/wiki/Mount_Kenya). The origin of the name Kenya is not clear, but perhaps linked to the Kikuyu, Embu and Kamba words Kirinyaga, Kirenyaa, and Kiinyaa which mean "God's resting place" in all three languages.[[4]](#cite_note-4) If so, then the British may not so much have mispronounced it ('Keenya'), as misspelled it. Prehistoric volcanic eruptions of Mount Kenya (now [extinct](/wiki/Extinct_volcano)) may have resulted in its association with divinity and [creation](/wiki/Creation_myth) among the indigenous Bantu ethnic groups, who are the native inhabitants of the agricultural land surrounding Mount Kenya.[Template:Or](/wiki/Template:Or)

In the 19th century, the German explorer [Johann Ludwig Krapf](/wiki/Johann_Ludwig_Krapf) was staying with the [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_peoples) [Kamba people](/wiki/Kamba_people) when he first spotted the mountain. On asking for the name of the mountain, he was told "*Kĩ-Nyaa*" or "*Kĩĩma- Kĩĩnyaa*" probably because the pattern of black rock and white snow on its peaks reminded them of the feathers of the cock ostrich.[[5]](#cite_note-5) The Agikuyu, who inhabit the slopes of Mt. Kenya, call it Kĩrĩma Kĩrĩnyaga in [Kikuyu](/wiki/Kikuyu_language), which is quite similar to the Kamba name.

[Ludwig Krapf](/wiki/Ludwig_Krapf) recorded the name as both *Kenia* and *Kegnia* believed by most to be a corruption of the Kamba version.<ref name=Krapf>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=krapf\_452>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref><ref name=foottit>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Others say that this was—on the contrary—a very precise notation of a correct African pronunciation [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en).[[6]](#cite_note-6) An 1882 map drawn by Joseph Thompsons, a Scottish geologist and naturalist, indicated Mt. Kenya as Mt. Kenia, 1862.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Controversy over the actual meaning of the word Kenya notwithstanding, it is clear that the mountain's name became widely accepted, [pars pro toto](/wiki/Pars_pro_toto), as the name of the country.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|140px|The](/wiki/File:Turkana_Boy.jpg) [Turkana boy](/wiki/Turkana_boy), a 1.6-million-year-old [hominid](/wiki/Hominid) fossil belonging to [*Homo erectus*](/wiki/Homo_erectus).

Fossils found in Kenya suggest that primates roamed the area more than 20 million years ago. Recent findings near Lake Turkana indicate that [hominids](/wiki/Hominid) such as [*Homo habilis*](/wiki/Homo_habilis) (1.8 and 2.5 million years ago) and [*Homo erectus*](/wiki/Homo_erectus) (1.8 million to 350,000 years ago) are possible direct ancestors of modern [*Homo sapiens*](/wiki/Homo_sapiens), and lived in Kenya in the [Pleistocene](/wiki/Pleistocene) epoch.[[7]](#cite_note-7) During excavations at [Lake Turkana](/wiki/Lake_Turkana) in 1984, paleoanthropologist [Richard Leakey](/wiki/Richard_Leakey) assisted by [Kamoya Kimeu](/wiki/Kamoya_Kimeu) discovered the [Turkana Boy](/wiki/Turkana_Boy), a 1.6-million-year-old fossil belonging to *Homo erectus*. Previous research on early hominids is particularly identified with [Mary Leakey](/wiki/Mary_Leakey) and [Louis Leakey](/wiki/Louis_Leakey), who were responsible for the preliminary archaeological research at [Olorgesailie](/wiki/Olorgesailie) and [Hyrax Hill](/wiki/Hyrax_Hill). Later work at the former site was undertaken by [Glynn Isaac](/wiki/Glynn_Isaac).[[7]](#cite_note-7)

### Neolithic[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

The first inhabitants of present-day Kenya were [hunter-gatherer](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) groups, akin to the modern [Khoisan](/wiki/Khoisan) speakers.[[8]](#cite_note-8) These people were later replaced by agropastoralist [Cushitic](/wiki/Cushitic) speakers from the [Horn of Africa](/wiki/Horn_of_Africa).[[9]](#cite_note-9) During the early [Holocene](/wiki/Holocene), the regional climate shifted from dry to wetter climatic conditions, providing an opportunity for the development of cultural traditions, such as agriculture and [herding](/wiki/Herding), in a more favourable environment.<ref name=EhretC18/>

Around 500 BC, [Nilotic](/wiki/Nilo-Saharan_languages)-speaking [pastoralists](/wiki/Pastoralism) (ancestral to Kenya's Nilotic speakers) started migrating from present-day Southern Sudan into Kenya.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) Nilotic groups in Kenya include the [Samburu](/wiki/Samburu_people), [Luo](/wiki/Luo_(family_of_ethnic_groups)), [Turkana](/wiki/Turkana_people), [Maasai](/wiki/Maasai_people).[[13]](#cite_note-13) By the first millennium AD, [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_languages)-speaking farmers had moved into the region.[[14]](#cite_note-14) The Bantus originated in West Africa along the [Benue River](/wiki/Benue_River) in what is now eastern [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria) and western [Cameroon](/wiki/Cameroon).[[15]](#cite_note-15) The Bantu migration brought new developments in agriculture and [iron working](/wiki/History_of_ferrous_metallurgy) to the region.<ref name=WayneSmith/> Bantu groups in Kenya include the [Kikuyu](/wiki/Kikuyu_people), [Luhya](/wiki/Luhya_people), [Kamba](/wiki/Kamba_people), [Kisii](/wiki/Gusii_people), [Meru](/wiki/Ameru_People), [Aembu](/wiki/Aembu), [Ambeere](/wiki/Ambeere), [Wadawida](/wiki/Wadawida)-Watuweta, Wapokomo and [Mijikenda](/wiki/Mijikenda_peoples) among others.

Remarkable prehistoric sites in the interior of Kenya include the archaeoastronomical site [Namoratunga](/wiki/Namoratunga) on the west side of [Lake Turkana](/wiki/Lake_Turkana) and the walled settlement of ThimLich Ohinga in [Migori County](/wiki/Migori_County).

### Swahili culture and trade (1st century–19th century)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|A traditional](/wiki/File:Lamu_door.jpg) [Swahili](/wiki/Swahili_culture) carved wooden door in [Lamu](/wiki/Lamu).

The Kenyan coast had served host to communities of [ironworkers](/wiki/Ironwork) and communities of Bantu subsistence farmers, hunters and fishers who supported the economy with agriculture, fishing, metal production and trade with foreign countries. These communities formed the earliest city states in the region which were collectively known as [Azania](/wiki/Azania).[[16]](#cite_note-16) By the 1st century CE, many of the [city-states](/wiki/City-states) such as [Mombasa](/wiki/Mombasa), [Malindi](/wiki/Malindi), and [Zanzibar](/wiki/Zanzibar) began to establish trade relations with [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs). This led to the increase economic growth of the Swahili states, introduction of [Islam](/wiki/Islam), [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic) influences on the Swahili [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu) language, [cultural diffusion](/wiki/Cultural_diffusion), as well as the Swahili city-states becoming a member of a larger trade network.[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) Many historians had long believed that the city states were established by Arab or Persian traders, but scholars now recognize the city states were an indigenous development where the apex of their development was around the 8th Century CE.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The [Kilwa Sultanate](/wiki/Kilwa_Sultanate) was a medieval [sultanate](/wiki/Sultanate), centred at [Kilwa](/wiki/Kilwa_Kisiwani) in modern-day [Tanzania](/wiki/Tanzania). At its height, its authority stretched over the entire length of the [Swahili Coast](/wiki/Swahili_Coast), including Kenya. It was said to be founded in the 10th century by [Ali ibn al-Hassan Shirazi](/wiki/Ali_ibn_al-Hassan_Shirazi),[[20]](#cite_note-20) a [Persian](/wiki/Persian_people) Sultan from [Shiraz](/wiki/Shiraz) in southern Iran.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The subsequent [Swahili](/wiki/Swahili_people) rulers would go on to build elaborate coral mosques and introduce copper coinage.[[22]](#cite_note-22) [thumb|Pottery sherds from the](/wiki/File:British_Museum_Kilwa_pot_sherds.jpg) [Kilwa Sultanate](/wiki/Kilwa_Sultanate), founded in the 10th century by the [Persian](/wiki/Persian_people) Sultan [Ali ibn al-Hassan Shirazi](/wiki/Ali_ibn_al-Hassan_Shirazi). The Swahili built Mombasa into a major port city and established trade links with other nearby city-states, as well as commercial centres in Persia, Arabia, and even India.[[23]](#cite_note-23) By the 15th-century, Portuguese voyager [Duarte Barbosa](/wiki/Duarte_Barbosa) claimed that "Mombasa is a place of great traffic and has a good harbour in which there are always moored small craft of many kinds and also great ships, both of which are bound from Sofala and others which come from Cambay and Melinde and others which sail to the island of Zanzibar."[[24]](#cite_note-24) Later on in the 17th century, once the Swahili coast was conquered and came under direct rule of [Omani Arabs](/wiki/Omani_Arabs), the [slave trade](/wiki/Arab_slave_trade) was expanded by the [Omani Arabs](/wiki/Omani_Arabs) to meet the demands of plantations in [Oman](/wiki/Oman) and [Zanzibar](/wiki/Zanzibar).[[25]](#cite_note-25) Initially these traders came mainly from Oman, but later many came from Zanzibar (such as [Tippu Tip](/wiki/Tippu_Tip)).[[26]](#cite_note-26) In addition, the Portuguese started buying slaves from the Omani and Zanzibari traders in response to the interruption of the transatlantic slave trade by British abolitionists.

Swahili, a Bantu language with [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language), [Persian](/wiki/Persian_language), and other Middle Eastern and South Asian [loanwords](/wiki/Loanword), later developed as a [*lingua franca*](/wiki/Lingua_franca) for trade between the different peoples.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Swahili now also has loan words from English.

Throughout the centuries, the Kenyan Coast has played host to many merchants and explorers. Among the cities that line the Kenyan coast is the City of Malindi. It has remained an important Swahili settlement since the 14th century and once rivalled Mombasa for dominance in the African Great Lakes region. Malindi has traditionally been a friendly port city for foreign powers. In 1414, the Chinese trader and explorer [Zheng He](/wiki/Zheng_He) representing the [Ming Dynasty](/wiki/Ming_Dynasty) visited the East African coast [on one of his last 'treasure voyages'](/wiki/Treasure_voyages).[[27]](#cite_note-27) Malindi authorities welcomed the Portuguese explorer [Vasco da Gama](/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) in 1498.

### British Kenya (1888–1962)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Africa_1909_16a.png)[British East Africa](/wiki/British_East_Africa) in 1909

The colonial history of Kenya dates from the establishment of a [German](/wiki/German_Empire) protectorate over the Sultan of [Zanzibar's](/wiki/Zanzibar) coastal possessions in 1885, followed by the arrival of the [Imperial British East Africa Company](/wiki/Imperial_British_East_Africa_Company) in 1888. Incipient imperial rivalry was forestalled when Germany handed its coastal holdings to Britain in 1890. This was followed by the building of the [Kenya–Uganda railway](/wiki/Uganda_Railway) passing through the country.[[28]](#cite_note-28) This was resisted by some ethnic groups—notably the [Nandi](/wiki/Nandi_people) led by [*Orkoiyot*](/wiki/Orkoiyot) [Koitalel Arap Samoei](/wiki/Koitalel_Arap_Samoei) for ten years from 1890 to 1900—however the British eventually built the railway. The *Nandi* were the first ethnic group to be put in a native reserve to stop them from disrupting the building of the railway. In 1920, the East Africa Protectorate was turned into a colony and renamed Kenya for its highest mountain.[[28]](#cite_note-28) During the railway construction era, there was a significant inflow of Indian people, who provided the bulk of the skilled manpower required for construction.[[29]](#cite_note-29) They and most of their descendants later remained in Kenya and formed the core of several distinct Indian communities such as the [Ismaili Muslim](/wiki/Ismailism) and [Sikh](/wiki/Sikh) communities.[[30]](#cite_note-30) While building the railway through [Tsavo](/wiki/Tsavo), a number of the Indian railway workers and local African labourers were attacked by two [lions](/wiki/Lions) known as the [Tsavo maneaters](/wiki/Tsavo_maneaters).[[31]](#cite_note-31) At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, the governors of [British East Africa](/wiki/British_East_Africa) (as the protectorate was generally known) and [German East Africa](/wiki/German_East_Africa) agreed a truce in an attempt to keep the young colonies out of direct hostilities. [Lt. Col. Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck](/wiki/Paul_von_Lettow-Vorbeck) took command of the German military forces, determined to tie down as many British resources as possible. Completely cut off from [Germany](/wiki/Germany), [von Lettow](/wiki/Paul_von_Lettow-Vorbeck) conducted an effective [guerrilla warfare](/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare) campaign, living off the land, capturing British supplies, and remaining undefeated. He eventually surrendered in [Northern Rhodesia](/wiki/Northern_Rhodesia) (today Zambia) fourteen days after the Armistice was signed in 1918.[[29]](#cite_note-29) [thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Kurve_bei_Mombasa.jpg) [Kenya–Uganda Railway](/wiki/Uganda_Railway) near [Mombasa](/wiki/Mombasa), about 1899. To chase von Lettow, the British deployed the [British Indian Army](/wiki/British_Indian_Army) troops from [India](/wiki/British_Raj) but needed large numbers of porters to overcome the formidable logistics of transporting supplies far into the interior on foot. The [Carrier Corps](/wiki/Carrier_Corps) was formed and ultimately mobilised over 400,000 Africans, contributing to their long-term politicisation.[[29]](#cite_note-29) During the early part of the 20th century, the interior central highlands were settled by British and other European farmers, who became wealthy farming coffee and tea.[[32]](#cite_note-32) (One depiction of this period of change from one colonist's perspective is found in the memoir [*Out of Africa*](/wiki/Out_of_Africa) by Danish author Baroness Karen von Blixen-Finecke, published in 1937.) By the 1930s, approximately 30,000 white settlers lived in the area and gained a political voice because of their contribution to the market economy.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The central highlands were already home to over a million members of the [Kikuyu](/wiki/Kikuyu_people) people, most of whom had no land claims in European terms and lived as itinerant farmers. To protect their interests, the settlers banned the growing of coffee, introduced a hut tax, and the landless were granted less and less land in exchange for their labour. A massive exodus to the cities ensued as their ability to provide a living from the land dwindled.[[29]](#cite_note-29) There were 80,000 [white settlers](/wiki/Whites_in_Kenya) living in Kenya in the 1950s.[[33]](#cite_note-33) In 1952, [Princess Elizabeth](/wiki/Queen_Elizabeth_II) and her husband [Prince Philip](/wiki/Prince_Philip,_Duke_of_Edinburgh) were on holiday at the [Treetops Hotel](/wiki/Treetops_Hotel) in Kenya when her father, [King George VI](/wiki/King_George_VI), died in his sleep. The young princess cut short her trip and returned home immediately to take her throne. She was crowned Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey in 1953 and as British hunter and conservationist [Jim Corbett](/wiki/Jim_Corbett) (who accompanied the royal couple) put it, she went up a tree in Africa a princess and came down a queen.[[34]](#cite_note-34)

#### Mau Mau Uprising (1952–1959)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|A statue of](/wiki/File:Statue_of_Dedan_Kimathi_Nairobi,_Kenya.jpg) [Dedan Kimathi](/wiki/Dedan_Kimathi), a Kenyan rebel leader with the [Mau Mau](/wiki/Mau_Mau) who fought against the British colonial system in the 1950s.

From October 1952 to December 1959, Kenya was in a state of emergency arising from the [Mau Mau rebellion](/wiki/Mau_Mau_Uprising) against British rule. The governor requested and obtained British and African troops, including the [King's African Rifles](/wiki/King's_African_Rifles). The British began [counter-insurgency](/wiki/Counter-insurgency) operations. In the May of 1953, General Sir [George Erskine](/wiki/George_Erskine) took charge as commander-in-chief of the colony's armed forces, with the personal backing of [Winston Churchill](/wiki/Winston_Churchill).[[35]](#cite_note-35) The capture of Warũhiũ Itote (aka [General China](/wiki/General_China)) on 15 January 1954 and the subsequent interrogation led to a better understanding of the Mau Mau command structure. [Operation Anvil](/wiki/Mau_Mau_Uprising#British_gain_the_initiative) opened on 24 April 1954, after weeks of planning by the army with the approval of the War Council. The operation effectively placed Nairobi under military siege. Nairobi's occupants were screened and the Mau Mau supporters moved to [detention camps](/wiki/Detention_camp). The Home Guard formed the core of the government's strategy as it was composed of loyalist Africans, not foreign forces such as the [British Army](/wiki/British_Army) and King's African Rifles. By the end of the emergency, the Home Guard had killed 4,686 Mau Mau, amounting to 42% of the total insurgents. The capture of [Dedan Kimathi](/wiki/Dedan_Kimathi) on 21 October 1956 in [Nyeri](/wiki/Nyeri) signified the ultimate defeat of the Mau Mau and essentially ended the military offensive.[[35]](#cite_note-35) During this period, substantial governmental changes to land tenure occurred. The most important of these was the [Swynnerton Plan](/wiki/Swynnerton_Plan), which was used to both reward loyalists and punish Mau Mau.

### Independent Kenya (1963)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|upright|The first President and founding father of Kenya,](/wiki/File:Jomo_Kenyatta.jpg) [Jomo Kenyatta](/wiki/Jomo_Kenyatta).

The first direct elections for native Kenyans to the Legislative Council took place in 1957. Despite British hopes of handing power to "moderate" local rivals, it was the [Kenya African National Union](/wiki/Kenya_African_National_Union) (KANU) of [Jomo Kenyatta](/wiki/Jomo_Kenyatta) that formed a government. The Colony of Kenya and the Protectorate of Kenya each came to an end on 12 December 1963 with independence being conferred on all of Kenya. The United Kingdom ceded sovereignty over the Colony of Kenya. The Sultan of Zanzibar agreed that simultaneous with independence for the Colony of Kenya, the Sultan would cease to have sovereignty over the Protectorate of Kenya so that all of Kenya would be one sovereign, independent state.[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37) In this way, Kenya became an independent country under the Kenya Independence Act 1963 of the United Kingdom. Exactly 12 months later on 12 December 1964, Kenya became a republic under the name "Republic of Kenya".[[36]](#cite_note-36) Concurrently, the Kenyan army fought the [Shifta War](/wiki/Shifta_War) against ethnic [Somali](/wiki/Somali_people) rebels inhabiting the [Northern Frontier District](/wiki/Northern_Frontier_District), who wanted to join their kin in the [Somali Republic](/wiki/Somali_Republic) to the north.[[38]](#cite_note-38) A cease fire was eventually reached with the signature of the Arusha Memorandum in October 1967, but relative insecurity prevailed through 1969.[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[40]](#cite_note-40) To discourage further invasions, Kenya signed a defence pact with [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia) in 1969, which is still in effect.[[41]](#cite_note-41) On 12 December 1964 the Republic of Kenya was proclaimed, and [Jomo Kenyatta](/wiki/Jomo_Kenyatta) became Kenya's first president.[[42]](#cite_note-42)

#### Moi era (1978–2002)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

At Kenyatta's death in 1978, [Daniel arap Moi](/wiki/Daniel_arap_Moi) became President. Daniel arap Moi retained the Presidency, being unopposed in elections held in 1979, 1983 ([snap elections](/wiki/Snap_election)) and 1988, all of which were held under the single party constitution. The 1983 elections were held a year early, and were a direct result of [an abortive military coup attempt](/wiki/1982_Kenyan_coup_d'état_attempt) on 2 August 1982.

[thumb|UK Foreign Office Minister Henry Bellingham with Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya in London, 31 July 2012](/wiki/File:President_of_Kenya_(7683305958).jpg) The abortive coup was masterminded by a low ranked Air Force serviceman, Senior Private [Hezekiah Ochuka](/wiki/Hezekiah_Ochuka), and was staged mainly by enlisted men in the Air Force. The putsch was quickly suppressed by forces commanded by Chief of General Staff [Mahamoud Mohamed](/wiki/Mahamoud_Mohamed), a veteran Somali military official.[[43]](#cite_note-43) They included the General Service Unit (GSU)—a paramilitary wing of the police—and later the regular police.

On the heels of the [Garissa Massacre](/wiki/Garissa_Massacre) of 1980, Kenyan troops committed the [Wagalla massacre](/wiki/Wagalla_massacre) in 1984 against thousands of civilians in [Wajir County](/wiki/Wajir_County). An official probe into the atrocities was later ordered in 2011.[[44]](#cite_note-44) The election held in 1988 saw the advent of the *mlolongo* (queuing) system, where voters were supposed to line up behind their favoured candidates instead of a secret ballot.[[45]](#cite_note-45) This was seen as the climax of a very undemocratic regime and it led to widespread agitation for constitutional reform. Several contentious clauses, including one that allowed for only one political party were changed in the following years.[[46]](#cite_note-46) In democratic, multiparty elections in 1992 and 1997, Daniel arap Moi won re-election.[[47]](#cite_note-47)

#### 2000s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

In 2002, Moi was constitutionally barred from running, and [Mwai Kibaki](/wiki/Mwai_Kibaki), running for the opposition coalition "National Rainbow Coalition" ([NARC](/wiki/National_Rainbow_Coalition)), was elected President. Anderson (2003) reports the elections were judged free and fair by local and international observers, and seemed to mark a turning point in Kenya's democratic evolution.[[47]](#cite_note-47) In 2005, Kenyans rejected a plan to replace the 1963 independence constitution with a new one.[[48]](#cite_note-48) In mid-2011, two consecutive missed rainy seasons precipitated the worst [drought in East Africa](/wiki/2011_East_Africa_drought) seen in 60 years. The northwestern [Turkana region](/wiki/Turkana_District) was especially affected,[[49]](#cite_note-49) with local schools shut down as a result.[[50]](#cite_note-50) The crisis was reportedly over by early 2012 because of coordinated relief efforts. Aid agencies subsequently shifted their emphasis to recovery initiatives, including digging irrigation canals and distributing plant seeds.[[51]](#cite_note-51)

## Geography and climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A map of Kenya.](/wiki/File:Un-kenya.png) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Kenya_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) map of Kenya.

At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),<ref name=cia>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Kenya is the world's forty-seventh largest country (after [Madagascar](/wiki/Madagascar)). It lies between latitudes [5°N](/wiki/5th_parallel_north) and [5°S](/wiki/5th_parallel_south), and longitudes [34°](/wiki/34th_meridian_east) and [42°E](/wiki/42nd_meridian_east). From the coast on the Indian Ocean, the low plains rise to central highlands. The highlands are bisected by the [Great Rift Valley](/wiki/Kenyan_Rift_Valley), with a fertile plateau lying to the east.

The Kenyan Highlands comprise one of the most successful agricultural production regions in Africa.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The highlands are the site of the highest point in Kenya and the second highest peak on the continent: [Mount Kenya](/wiki/Mount_Kenya), which reaches [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and is the site of glaciers. [Mount Kilimanjaro](/wiki/Mount_Kilimanjaro) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) can be seen from Kenya to the south of the Tanzanian border.

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

Kenya's climate varies from tropical along the coast to temperate inland to [arid](/wiki/Arid) in the north and northeast parts of the country. The area receives a great deal of sunshine every month, and summer clothes are worn throughout the year. It is usually cool at night and early in the morning inland at higher elevations.

The "long rains" season occurs from March/April to May/June. The "short rains" season occurs from October to November/December. The rainfall is sometimes heavy and often falls in the afternoons and evenings. The temperature remains high throughout these months of tropical rain. The hottest period is February and March, leading into the season of the long rains, and the coldest is in July, until mid August.

[thumb|A giraffe at](/wiki/File:Giraffe_-_Skyline_-_Nairobi_-_Park.jpg) [Nairobi National Park](/wiki/Nairobi_National_Park), with Nairobi's skyline in background

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Template:Resize](/wiki/Template:Resize) | | | | |
| **City** | | **Elevation (m)** | **Max (°C)** | **Min (°C)** |
| Mombasa[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | 17 | 32.3 | 23.8 |
| Nairobi | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | 1,661 | 25.2 | 13.6 |
| Kisumu | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | 1,131 | 31.8 | 16.9 |
| Eldoret | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | 2,085 | 23.6 | 9.5 |
| Lodwar | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | 506 | 34.8 | 23.7 |
| Mandera | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | 506 | 34.8 | 25.7 |

### Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Kenya has considerable land area devoted to [wildlife](/wiki/Wildlife) habitats, including the [Masai Mara](/wiki/Masai_Mara), where [blue wildebeest](/wiki/Blue_Wildebeest) and other [bovids](/wiki/Bovid) participate in a large scale [annual migration](/wiki/Wikt:migration). More than 1 million wildebeest and 200,000 zebras participate in the migration across the [Mara River](/wiki/Mara_River).[[53]](#cite_note-53) The ["Big Five"](/wiki/Big_Five_Game) game animals of Africa, that is the [lion](/wiki/Lion), [leopard](/wiki/Leopard), [buffalo](/wiki/African_buffalo), [rhinoceros](/wiki/Rhinoceros), and [elephant](/wiki/African_elephant), can be found in Kenya and in the Masai Mara in particular. A significant population of other wild animals, reptiles and birds can be found in the [national parks](/wiki/List_of_national_parks_of_Kenya) and game reserves in the country. The annual animal migration occurs between June and September with millions of animals taking part, attracting valuable foreign tourism. Two million wildebeest migrate a distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the [Serengeti](/wiki/Serengeti) in neighbouring [Tanzania](/wiki/Tanzania) to the Masai Mara[[54]](#cite_note-54) in Kenya, in a constant clockwise fashion, searching for food and water supplies. This Serengeti Migration of the wildebeest is a curious spectacle listed among the [Seven Natural Wonders of Africa](/wiki/Seven_Natural_Wonders_of_Africa).

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Former president](/wiki/File:Mwai_Kibaki,_October_2003.jpg) [Mwai Kibaki](/wiki/Mwai_Kibaki)

Kenya is a [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) republic. The President is both the [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government), and of a [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system). [Executive power](/wiki/Executive_power) is exercised by the government. [Legislative power](/wiki/Legislative_power) is vested in both the government and the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Kenya) and the [Senate](/wiki/Senate_of_Kenya). The [Judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary) is independent of the executive and the legislature. There was growing concern especially during former president Daniel arap Moi's tenure that the executive was increasingly meddling with the affairs of the judiciary.[[55]](#cite_note-55) Kenya ranks low on [Transparency International's](/wiki/Transparency_International) [Corruption Perception Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perception_Index) (CPI), a metric which attempts to gauge the prevalence of public sector corruption in various countries. In 2012, the nation placed 139th out of 176 total countries in the CPI, with a score of 27/100.[[56]](#cite_note-56) However, there are several rather significant developments with regards to curbing corruption from the Kenyan government, for instance, the establishment of a new and independent Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).[[57]](#cite_note-57) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:JUDICIARY.JPG) [Supreme Court of Kenya](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Kenya) building. Following general elections held in 1997, the Constitution of Kenya Review Act designed to pave the way for more comprehensive amendments to the Kenyan constitution was passed by the national parliament.[[58]](#cite_note-58) In December 2002, Kenyans held democratic and open elections, most of which were judged free and fair by international observers.[[59]](#cite_note-59) The 2002 elections marked an important turning point in Kenya's democratic evolution in that power was transferred peacefully from the [Kenya African National Union](/wiki/Kenya_African_National_Union) (KANU), which had ruled the country since independence to the [National Rainbow Coalition](/wiki/National_Rainbow_Coalition) (NARC), a coalition of political parties.

Under the presidency of [Mwai Kibaki](/wiki/Mwai_Kibaki), the new ruling coalition promised to focus its efforts on generating economic growth, combating corruption, improving education, and rewriting its constitution. A few of these promises have been met. There is free primary education.[[60]](#cite_note-60) In 2007, the government issued a statement declaring that from 2008, secondary education would be heavily subsidised, with the government footing all tuition fees.[[61]](#cite_note-61)

### 2007 elections[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:ODM_-_Raila_Odina_portrait.jpg)[Orange Democratic Movement](/wiki/Orange_Democratic_Movement) supporters at a rally during the [2007–08 Kenyan crisis](/wiki/2007–08_Kenyan_crisis)

The 2007 Kenyan general election was held on 27 December 2007.[[62]](#cite_note-62) It comprised presidential, parliamentary and civic elections.

The parliamentary elections were considered to be free and generally fair (as opposed to the contested presidential elections). They were remarkable for a number of changes. Amongst these were:

* Out of 190 outgoing MPs defending their seats only 71 were re-elected.
* 20 ministers defending their seats were defeated
* KANU the official opposition party of 2002 which later joined the government was reduced from 62 to 14 seats.
* 15 female candidates were elected which is the highest number ever in Kenyan history (2002: 9)

Campaign issues included:

* Appropriations of [Constituency Development Fund](/wiki/Constituency_Development_Fund) (CDF) money
* MP's salary hikes
* Legislation passed / not passed in the 9th Parliament
* Changing the constitution.

In the presidential elections, President Kibaki under the [Party of National Unity](/wiki/Party_of_National_Unity_(Kenya)) ran for re-election against the main opposition party, the [Orange Democratic Movement](/wiki/Orange_Democratic_Movement) (ODM). The elections were seen to have been flawed with international observers saying that they were below international standards. After a split which took a crucial 8% of the votes away from the ODM to the newly formed [Orange Democratic Movement-Kenya](/wiki/Orange_Democratic_Movement-Kenya) (ODM-K)'s candidate, [Kalonzo Musyoka](/wiki/Kalonzo_Musyoka), the race tightened between ODM candidate [Raila Odinga](/wiki/Raila_Odinga) and [Kibaki](/wiki/Kibaki). As the count came into the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) headquarters, Odinga was shown to have a slight, and then substantial lead as the results from his strongholds came in early. As the ECK continued to count the votes, Kibaki closed the gap and then overtook his opponent by a substantial margin after votes from his stronghold arrived later. This led to protests and open discrediting of the ECK for complicity and to Odinga declaring himself the "people's president" and calling for a recount.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The protests [escalated into ethnic violence](/wiki/2007–08_Kenyan_crisis) and destruction of property; almost 1,000 people were killed and nearly 600,000 displaced.[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65)<ref name=ODI>Samir Elhawary (2008) [Crisis in Kenya: land, displacement and the search for 'durable solutions'](http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=1522&title=crisis-kenya-land-displacement) [Overseas Development Institute](/wiki/Overseas_Development_Institute)</ref> The dispute caused underlying tensions over land and its distribution to re-erupt, as it had in the 1992 and 1997 elections.<ref name=ODI/> Hundreds of thousands were forced off their land to relatives elsewhere in the country and some claim weapons are being bought in the region, perhaps in anticipation of the 2013 elections.<ref name=ODI/>

A group of eminent persons of Africa, led by former United Nations secretary-general [Kofi Annan](/wiki/Kofi_Annan), brokered a peaceful solution to the political stalemate.

Since the election riots, the government and civil society organisations started programmes to avoid similar disasters in the future, said Agnes R. M. Aboum – executive director of TAABCO Research and Development Consultants in Nairobi – in the magazine [D+C Development and Cooperation](http://www.dandc.eu/articles/220704/index.en.shtml). For example, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission initiated community dialogues, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya started peace meetings and the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation process was started.

### 2008[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|Former prime minister](/wiki/File:Raila_Odinga,_2009_World_Economic_Forum_on_Africa-1.jpg) [Raila Odinga](/wiki/Raila_Odinga)

On 28 February 2008, Kibaki and Odinga signed an agreement on the formation of a [coalition](/wiki/Coalition) government in which Odinga would become Kenya's second [prime minister](/wiki/Prime_minister). Under the deal, the president would appoint cabinet ministers from both [PNU](/wiki/Party_of_National_Unity_(Kenya)) and [ODM](/wiki/Orange_Democratic_Movement) camps depending on each party's strength in Parliament. The agreement stipulated that the cabinet would include a vice-president and two deputy prime ministers. After debates, it was passed by parliament; the coalition would hold until the end of the current parliament or if either of the parties withdraws from the deal before then.[[66]](#cite_note-66) The new office of the PM will have [power](/wiki/Power_(sociology)) and [authority](/wiki/Authority) to co-ordinate and supervise the functions of the government and will be occupied by an elected [MP](/wiki/Member_of_Parliament) who will be the leader of the party or coalition with majority members in Parliament. The world watched Annan and his UN-backed panel and African Union chairman [Jakaya Kikwete](/wiki/Jakaya_Kikwete) as they brought together the former rivals to the signing ceremony, beamed live on national TV from the steps of [Nairobi's](/wiki/Nairobi) [Harambee](/wiki/Harambee) House. On 29 February 2008, representatives of PNU and ODM began working on the finer details of the power-sharing agreement.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Kenyan lawmakers unanimously approved a power-sharing deal 18 March 2008, aimed at salvaging a country usually seen as one of the most stable and prosperous in Africa. The deal brought Kibaki's PNU and Odinga's ODM together and heralded the formation of the [grand coalition](/wiki/Grand_coalition), in which the two political parties would share power equally.[[68]](#cite_note-68)

### Grand coalition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

On 13 April 2008, President Kibaki named a grand coalition cabinet of 41 [Ministers](/wiki/Minister_(government))- including the prime minister and his two deputies. The cabinet, which included 50 Assistant Ministers, was sworn in at the State House in Nairobi on Thursday, 17 April 2008, in the presence of Dr. [Kofi Annan](/wiki/Kofi_Annan) and other invited dignitaries.

A constitutional change was considered that would eliminate the position of prime minister[[69]](#cite_note-69) and simultaneously reduce the powers of the president. A [referendum](/wiki/Kenyan_constitutional_referendum,_2010) to vote on the [proposed constitution](/wiki/Proposed_Constitution_of_Kenya,_2010) was held on 4 August 2010, and the new constitution passed by a wide margin.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Among other things, the new constitution delegates more power to local governments and gives Kenyans a [bill of rights](/wiki/Bill_of_rights).[[71]](#cite_note-71) It was promulgated on 27 August 2010 at a euphoric ceremony in Nairobi's [Uhuru Park](/wiki/Uhuru_Park), accompanied by a 21-gun salute. The event was attended by various African leaders and praised by the international community. As of that day, the new constitution heralding the Second Republic came into force.[[72]](#cite_note-72)

### 2013 elections and new government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|Incumbent President of Kenya](/wiki/File:Uhuru_Kenyatta_Official.jpg) [Uhuru Kenyatta](/wiki/Uhuru_Kenyatta)

Under the new constitution and with President Kibaki prohibited by term limits from running for a third term, Deputy Prime Minister [Uhuru Kenyatta](/wiki/Uhuru_Kenyatta) ran for office. He won with 50.51% of the vote in March 2013.

In December 2014, President [Uhuru Kenyatta](/wiki/Uhuru_Kenyatta) signed a Security Laws Amendment Bill, which supporters of the law suggested was necessary to guard against armed groups. Opposition politicians, human rights groups, and nine Western countries criticised the security bill, arguing that it infringed on democratic freedoms. The governments of the [United States](/wiki/United_States), the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom), [Germany](/wiki/Germany), and [France](/wiki/France) also collectively issued a press statement cautioning about the law's potential impact. Through the Jubilee Coalition, the Bill was later passed on 19 December in the National Assembly under acrimonious circumstances.[[73]](#cite_note-73)

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Kenya has close ties with its fellow [Swahili](/wiki/Swahili_language)-speaking neighbours in the [African Great Lakes](/wiki/African_Great_Lakes) region. Relations with Uganda and Tanzania are generally strong, as the three nations work toward economic and social integration through common membership in the [East African Community](/wiki/East_African_Community).

Relations with Somalia have historically been tense, although there has been some military co-ordination against Islamist insurgents. Kenya has good relations with the United Kingdom.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Kenya is one of the most pro-American nations in Africa, and the wider world.[[75]](#cite_note-75) With [International Criminal Court](/wiki/International_Criminal_Court) trial dates scheduled in 2013 for both President Kenyatta and Deputy President [William Ruto](/wiki/William_Ruto) related to the 2007 election aftermath, US President [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) chose not to visit the country during his [mid-2013 African trip](/wiki/United_States_presidential_visits_to_Sub-Saharan_Africa#List_of_trips).[[76]](#cite_note-76) Later in the summer, Kenyatta visited China at the invitation of President [Xi Jinping](/wiki/Xi_Jinping) after a stop in Russia and not having visited the United States as president.<ref name=wp01>Raghavan, Sudarsan, ["In snub to Washington, Kenyan president visits China, Russia first"](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/in-snub-to-washington-kenyan-president-visits-china-russia-in-first-official-visit-outside-africa/2013/08/17/baaed162-06a4-11e3-bfc5-406b928603b2_story.html), Washington *Post*, 17 August 2013. Ambassador Liu's comments at capitalfm.co.ke linked to here <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/eblog/2013/08/16/kenya-and-china-achieving-shared-dreams-hand-in-hand/>. Retrieved 18 August 2013.</ref> In July 2015 Obama visited Kenya, the first American president to visit the country while in office.[[77]](#cite_note-77) [thumb|350px|Kenya, Trends in the Human Development Index 1970–2010.](/wiki/File:Kenya,_Trends_in_the_Human_Development_Index_1970-2010.png)

In March 1996, the presidents of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda re-established the [East African Community](/wiki/East_African_Community) (EAC). The EAC's objectives include harmonising tariffs and customs regimes, free movement of people, and improving regional infrastructures. In March 2004, the three East African countries signed a [Customs Union Agreement](/wiki/Customs_union).

Kenya is East and Central Africa's hub for financial services. The [Nairobi Securities Exchange](/wiki/Nairobi_Securities_Exchange) (NSE) is ranked 4th in Africa in terms of market capitalisation. The Kenyan banking system is supervised by the [Central Bank of Kenya](/wiki/Central_Bank_of_Kenya) (CBK). As of late July 2004, the system consisted of 43 commercial banks (down from 48 in 2001), several [non-bank financial institutions](/wiki/Non-bank_financial_institution), including mortgage companies, four savings and loan associations, and several core foreign-exchange bureaus.[[86]](#cite_note-86)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Elephants at](/wiki/File:Elephants_at_Amboseli_national_park_against_Mount_Kilimanjaro.jpg) [Amboseli National Park](/wiki/Amboseli_National_Park) against [Mount Kilimanjaro](/wiki/Mount_Kilimanjaro)

Kenya's services sector, which contributes 61% of GDP, is dominated by tourism. The tourism sector has exhibited steady growth in most years since independence and by the late 1980s had become the country's principal source of foreign exchange. Tourists, the largest number being from [Germany](/wiki/Germany) and the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom), are attracted mainly to the coastal beaches and the [game reserves](/wiki/Game_reserve), notably, the expansive [East](/wiki/Tsavo_East_National_Park) and [Tsavo West National Park](/wiki/Tsavo_West_National_Park) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the southeast.

Tourism has seen a substantial revival over the past several years and is the major contributor to the pick-up in the country's economic growth. Tourism is now Kenya's largest foreign exchange earning sector, followed by flowers, tea, and coffee. In 2006 tourism generated US$803 million, up from US$699 million the previous year. Presently, there are also numerous [shopping malls in Kenya](/wiki/List_of_shopping_malls_in_Kenya). In addition, there are four main [hypermarket chains in Kenya](/wiki/List_of_hypermarkets#Kenya).

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A Tea farm near](/wiki/File:Kenya-Tealand-Near-Kericho-2012.JPG) [Kericho](/wiki/Kericho), [Kericho County](/wiki/Kericho_County).

Agriculture is the second largest contributor to Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP), after the service sector. In 2005 agriculture, including [forestry](/wiki/Forestry) and fishing, accounted for 24% of GDP, as well as for 18% of wage employment and 50% of revenue from exports. The principal [cash crops](/wiki/Cash_crop) are tea, horticultural produce, and coffee. Horticultural produce and tea are the main growth sectors and the two most valuable of all of Kenya's exports. The production of major food staples such as [corn](/wiki/Maize) is subject to sharp weather-related fluctuations. Production downturns periodically necessitate food aid—for example, in 2004 aid for 1.8 million people because of one of Kenya's intermittent [droughts](/wiki/Droughts).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|A Kenyan farmer at work in the](/wiki/File:2DU_Kenya_86_(5367322642).jpg) [Mount Kenya](/wiki/Mount_Kenya) region.

A consortium led by the [International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics](/wiki/International_Crops_Research_Institute_for_the_Semi-Arid_Tropics) ([ICRISAT](/wiki/ICRISAT)) has had some success in helping farmers grow new [pigeon pea](/wiki/Pigeon_pea) varieties, instead of maize, in particularly dry areas. Pigeon peas are very drought resistant, so can be grown in areas with less than 650 mm annual rainfall. Successive projects encouraged the commercialisation of legumes, by stimulating the growth of local seed production and agro-dealer networks for distribution and marketing. This work, which included linking producers to wholesalers, helped to increase local producer prices by 20–25% in Nairobi and Mombasa. The commercialisation of the pigeon pea is now enabling some farmers to buy assets, ranging from mobile phones to productive land and livestock, and is opening pathways for them to move out of poverty.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Tea, coffee, sisal, pyrethrum, corn, and wheat are grown in the fertile highlands, one of the most successful agricultural production regions in Africa.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Livestock predominates in the semi-arid savanna to the north and east. [Coconuts](/wiki/Coconuts), [pineapples](/wiki/Pineapples), [cashew nuts](/wiki/Cashew_nuts), cotton, [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane), [sisal](/wiki/Sisal), and corn are grown in the lower-lying areas. Kenya has not attained the level of investment and efficiency in agriculture that can guarantee food security and coupled with resulting poverty (53% of the population lives below the poverty line), a significant portion of the population regularly starves and is heavily dependent on food aid.[[87]](#cite_note-87) Poor roads, an inadequate railway network, under-used water transport and expensive air transport have isolated mostly [arid](/wiki/Arid) and [semi-arid](/wiki/Semi-arid) areas and farmers in other regions often leave food to rot in the fields because they cannot access markets. This was last seen in August and September 2011 prompting the [Kenyans for Kenya](/wiki/Kenyans_for_Kenya) initiative by the [Red Cross](/wiki/Red_Cross).[[89]](#cite_note-89) Kenya is the world's 3rd largest exporter of cut flowers.<ref name=kenya-flower-industry>["Got roses this Valentine's Day? They probably came from Kenya", CNN, March 16, 2015.](http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/16/africa/kenya-flower-industry/)</ref> Roughly half of Kenya's 127 flower farms are concentrated around [Lake Naivasha](/wiki/Lake_Naivasha), 90 kilometers northwest of Nairobi.<ref name=kenya-flower-industry/> To speed their export, Nairobi airport has a terminal dedicated to the transport of flowers and vegetables.<ref name=kenya-flower-industry/>

### Industry and manufacturing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Kencom_house.jpg) [Kenya Commercial Bank](/wiki/Kenya_Commercial_Bank) headquarters at [KENCOM House](/wiki/KENCOM_House) in Nairobi. Although Kenya is the most industrially developed country in the [African Great Lakes](/wiki/African_Great_Lakes) region, manufacturing still accounts for only 14% of the GDP. Industrial activity, concentrated around the three largest urban centres, [Nairobi](/wiki/Nairobi), [Mombasa](/wiki/Mombasa) and [Kisumu](/wiki/Kisumu), is dominated by food-processing industries such as grain milling, beer production, and sugarcane crushing, and the fabrication of consumer goods, e.g., vehicles from kits.

There is a cement production industry.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Kenya has an [oil refinery](/wiki/Oil_refinery) that processes imported crude petroleum into petroleum products, mainly for the domestic market. In addition, a substantial and expanding [informal sector](/wiki/Informal_sector) commonly referred to as *jua kali* engages in small-scale manufacturing of household goods, auto parts, and farm implements.[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92) Kenya's inclusion among the beneficiaries of the US Government's African Growth and Opportunity Act ([AGOA](/wiki/AGOA)) has given a boost to manufacturing in recent years. Since AGOA took effect in 2000, Kenya's clothing sales to the United States increased from US$44 million to US$270 million (2006).[[93]](#cite_note-93) Other initiatives to strengthen manufacturing have been the new government's favourable tax measures, including the removal of duty on capital equipment and other raw materials.[[94]](#cite_note-94)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The largest share of Kenya's electricity supply comes from hydroelectric stations at dams along the upper [Tana River](/wiki/Tana_River_(Kenya)), as well as the [Turkwel Gorge Dam](/wiki/Turkwel_Gorge_Dam) in the west. A petroleum-fired plant on the coast, [geothermal facilities](/wiki/Geothermal_power_in_Kenya) at [Olkaria](/wiki/Olkaria) (near Nairobi), and electricity imported from [Uganda](/wiki/Uganda) make up the rest of the supply. Kenya's installed capacity stood at 1,142 [megawatts](/wiki/Megawatts) between 2001 and 2003. The state-owned [Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen)](/wiki/Kenya_Electricity_Generating_Company), established in 1997 under the name of Kenya Power Company, handles the generation of electricity, while Kenya Power handles the electricity transmission and distribution system in the country. Shortfalls of electricity occur periodically, when drought reduces water flow. To become energy sufficient, Kenya aims to build a nuclear power plant by 2017.[[95]](#cite_note-95) [thumb|Workers at](/wiki/File:Worker_in_Olkaria_Kenya.jpg) [Olkaria Geothermal Power Plant](/wiki/Olkaria_II_Geothermal_Power_Station).

Kenya has proven deposits of oil in [Turkana](/wiki/Turkana_County) and the commercial viability was just discovered. [Tullow Oil](/wiki/Tullow_Oil) estimates Kenya's oil reserves to be around 10 billion barrels.[[96]](#cite_note-96) Exploration is still continuing to determine if there are more reserves. Kenya currently imports all crude petroleum requirements. Kenya, east Africa's largest economy, has no strategic reserves and relies solely on oil marketers' 21-day oil reserves required under industry regulations. Petroleum accounts for 20% to 25% of the national import bill.[[97]](#cite_note-97)

### Overall Chinese investment and trade[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Published comments on Kenya's [Capital FM](/wiki/98.4_Capital_FM) website by Liu Guangyuan, China's ambassador to Kenya, at the time of President Kenyatta's 2013 trip to Beijing, said, "Chinese investment in Kenya ... reached $474 million, representing Kenya's largest source of foreign direct investment, and ... bilateral trade ... reached $2.84 billion" in 2012. Kenyatta was "[a]ccompanied by 60 Kenyan business people [and hoped to] ... gain support from China for a planned $2.5 billion railway from the southern Kenyan port of Mombasa to neighboring [Uganda](/wiki/Uganda), as well as a nearly $1.8 billion dam", according to a statement from the president's office also at the time of the trip.<ref name=wp01/>

Base Titanium, a subsidiary of Base resources of Australia, shipped its first major consignment of minerals to China. About 25,000 tonnes of [ilmenite](/wiki/Ilmenite) was flagged off the Kenyan coastal town of Kilifi. The first shipment was expected to earn Kenya about Kshs15[Template:En dash](/wiki/Template:En_dash)20 billion in earnings.[[98]](#cite_note-98) China has been causing environmental and social problems that include the recent suspension of the railway project.[[99]](#cite_note-99)

### Vision 2030[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|The official logo of](/wiki/File:Vision2030_logo.svg) [Vision 2030](/wiki/Kenya_Vision_2030).

In 2007, the Kenyan government unveiled [Vision 2030](/wiki/Kenya_Vision_2030), an economic development programme it hopes will put the country in the same league as the [Asian Economic Tigers](/wiki/Four_Asian_Tigers) by the year 2030. In 2013, it launched a National Climate Change Action Plan, having acknowledged that omitting climate as a key development issue in Vision 2030 was an oversight. The 200-page Action Plan, developed with support from the [Climate & Development Knowledge Network](/wiki/Climate_&_Development_Knowledge_Network), sets out the Government of Kenya's vision for a 'low carbon climate resilient development pathway'. At the launch in March 2013, the Secretary of the Ministry of Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 emphasised that climate wold be a central issue in the renewed Medium Term Plan that would be launched in the coming months. This would create a direct and robust delivery framework for the Action Plan and ensure climate change is treated as an economy-wide issue.[[100]](#cite_note-100)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Template:Resize](/wiki/Template:Resize) | |
| **GDP** | $41.84 billion (2012) at Market Price. $76.07 billion (Purchasing Power Parity, 2012) There exists an informal economy that is never counted as part of the official GDP figures. |
| **Annual growth rate** | 5.1% (2012) |
| **Per capita income** | Per Capita Income (PPP)= $1,800 |
| **Agricultural produce**[**Template:Nbsp**](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) | tea, coffee, [corn](/wiki/Maize), wheat, [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane), fruit, vegetables, dairy products, beef, pork, poultry, eggs |
| **Industry** | small-scale consumer goods (plastic, furniture, batteries, textiles, clothing, soap, cigarettes, flour), agricultural products, horticulture, oil refining; aluminium, steel, lead; cement, commercial ship repair, tourism |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Trade in 2012 | | |
| **Exports** | $5.942 billion | tea, coffee, horticultural products, petroleum products, cement, fish |
| **Major markets** | [Uganda](/wiki/Uganda) 9.9%, [Tanzania](/wiki/Tanzania) 9.6%, Netherlands 8.4%, UK, 8.1%, US 6.2%, Egypt 4.9%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 4.2% (2012)<ref name=cia/> | |
| **Imports** | $14.39 billion | machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, motor vehicles, iron and steel, resins and plastics |
| **Major suppliers** | China 15.3%, [India](/wiki/India) 13.8%, UAE 10.5%, Saudi Arabia 7.3%, South Africa 5.5%, Japan 4.0% (2012)<ref name=cia/> | |

### Oil exploration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:Kenya_Aerial_2009-08-27_14-26-44.JPG)[Lake Turkana](/wiki/Lake_Turkana) borders Turkana County

Kenya has proven oil deposits in [Turkana County](/wiki/Turkana_County). President Mwai Kibaki announced on 26 March 2012 that [Tullow Oil](/wiki/Tullow_Oil), an Anglo-Irish oil exploration firm, had struck oil but its commercial viability and subsequent production would take about three years to confirm.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Early in 2006 Chinese President [Hu Jintao](/wiki/Hu_Jintao) signed an oil exploration contract with Kenya, part of a series of deals designed to keep Africa's natural resources flowing to China's rapidly expanding economy.

The deal allowed for China's state-controlled offshore oil and gas company, [CNOOC](/wiki/China_National_Offshore_Oil_Corporation), to prospect for oil in Kenya, which is just beginning to drill its first exploratory wells on the borders of Sudan and Somalia and in coastal waters. There are formal estimates of the possible reserves of oil discovered.[[102]](#cite_note-102)

### Child labour and prostitution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:Maasai_People_Clothing.jpg)[Maasai people](/wiki/Maasai_people). The Maasai live in both Kenya and Tanzania.

Child labour is common in Kenya. Most working children are active in agriculture.[[103]](#cite_note-103) In 2006, UNICEF estimated that up to 30% of girls in the coastal areas of Malindi, Mombasa, Kilifi, and Diani were subject to prostitution. Most of the prostitutes in Kenya are aged 9–18.[[103]](#cite_note-103) The Ministry of Gender and Child Affairs employed 400 child protection officers in 2009.[[103]](#cite_note-103) The causes of child labour include poverty, the lack of access to education and weak government institutions.[[103]](#cite_note-103) Kenya has ratified Convention No. 81 on labour inspection in industries and Convention No. 129 on labour inspection in agriculture.[[104]](#cite_note-104)

### Microfinance in Kenya[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

24 institutions offer business loans on a large scale, specific agriculture loans, education loans and for any other purpose loans. Additionally there are:

* emergency loans, which are more expensive in respect to interest rates, but are quickly available
* group loans for smaller groups (4–5 members) and larger groups (up to 30 members)
* women loans, which are also available to a group of women

Out of approximately 40 million [Kenyans](/wiki/Kenyans), about 14 million Kenyans are not able to receive financial service through formal loan application service and an additional 12 million Kenyans have no access to financial service institutions at all. Further, 1 million Kenyans are reliant on informal groups for receiving financial aid.[[105]](#cite_note-105)