

LEVELED BOOK • L

# Kenya



Written by Lou Duncan

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## Where Is It?

Kenya is a country in Africa. Part of the country is next to the Indian Ocean. Five different countries border Kenya to the north, south, east, and west.

The capital of Kenya is Nairobi (neye-ROH-bee). More than three million people live there. The city has many businesses. Many different goods are made there.

Nairobi has many hotels for people who visit Kenya. At one famous hotel, guests can eat breakfast with giraffes!



Friendly giraffes live in the areas around Giraffe Manor near Nairobi.



The Maasai (muh-SY) are one tribe of Kenyan people.

## People

More than forty-five million people live in Kenya. Kenya's people belong to more than thirty different tribes.

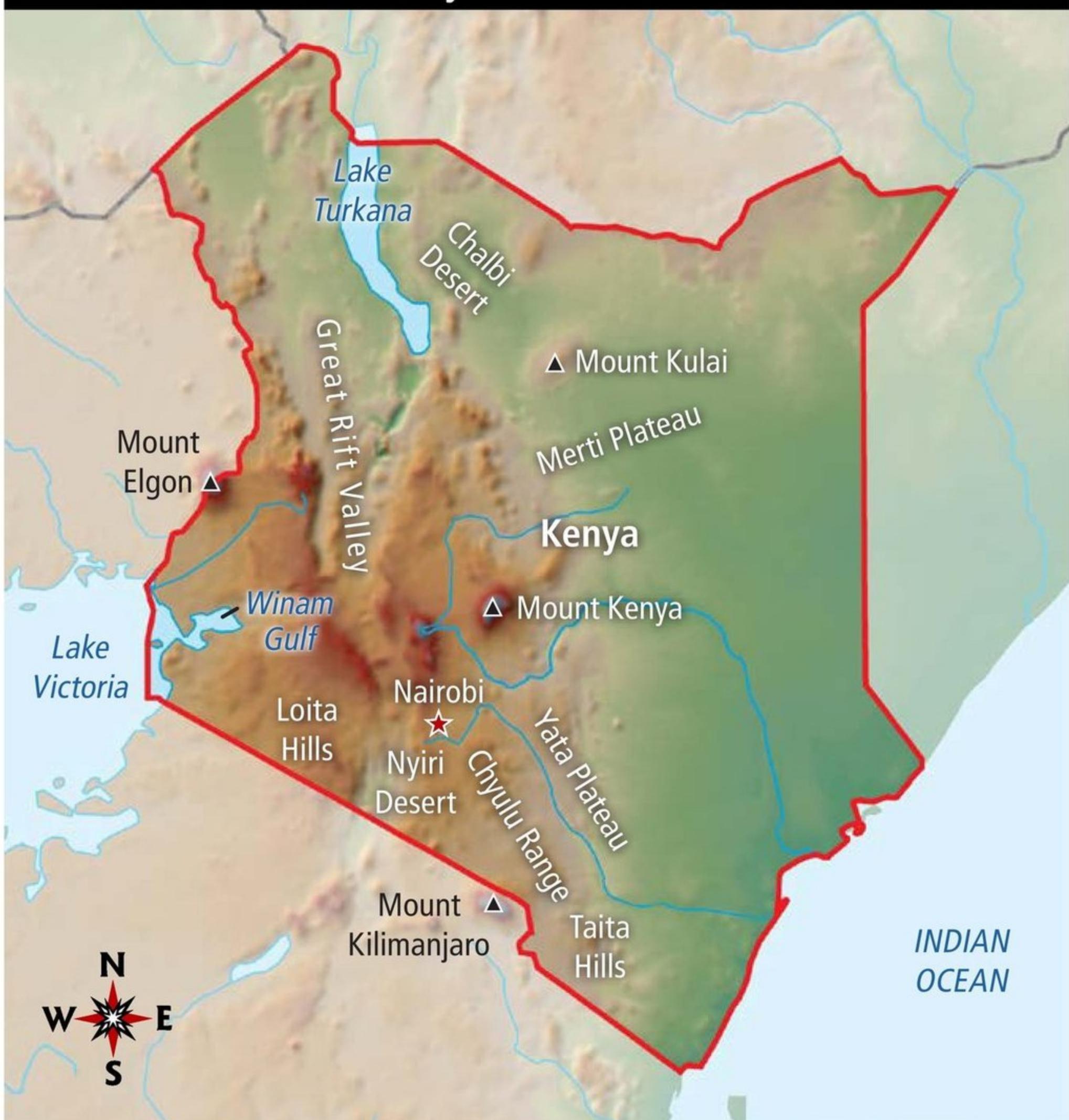
Kenyan people speak the language of their tribe. Most people also speak Swahili (swah-HEE-lee) or English. Swahili and English are the two main languages of Kenya.

Most people live in the countryside. Many farm the land. They grow food to feed their families. They also grow **crops** to sell. Tea, coffee, corn, and wheat are some of the main crops.



A worker spreads out coffee beans to dry at a factory in Kenya. Later, the beans can be ground up to make coffee.

## Kenya's Landforms



## Land

Kenya has low land along the Indian Ocean. The land rises to become **highlands** in the west. The highlands include mountains and raised, flat areas.

The Great Rift Valley splits the highlands. This valley is a crack in the land that was made millions of years ago. It is 6,400 kilometers (3,977 mi.) long. The valley has deserts and lakes.



Lake Bogoria is one of the many lakes in the Great Rift Valley.



Dancers from different tribes come together to celebrate Kenya's freedom on December 12.

## Celebrations

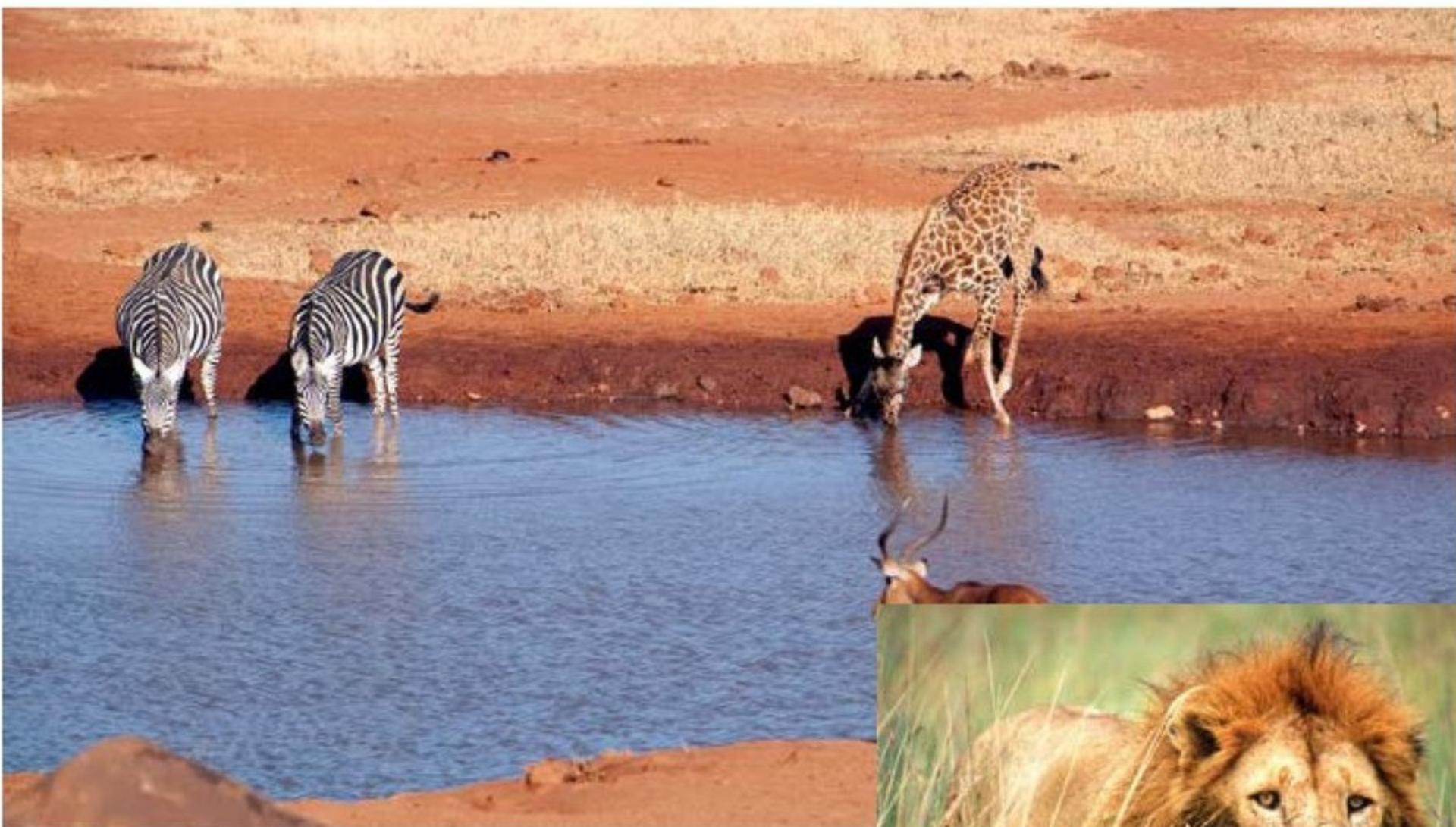
People from Kenya celebrate many special days. Great Britain ruled Kenya for many years.

On December 12, 1963, Kenya became a free country. Every December 12, people celebrate with feasts, parades, and dancing.



Some tribes in Kenya raise camels to race and to carry people.

Kenya's camel race festival starts in late August. It lasts for three days. People come from all over the world to race camels. At the festival, visitors also enjoy bike races, dancing, and local foods. They buy arts and crafts made by different tribes.



(Main) Zebras and a giraffe drink from a water hole in a protected area in Kenya. (Inset) Lions also live in these protected areas.

## Animals

Kenya is famous for its wild animals. Some of them are very rare. Kenya has more than fifty parks and protected areas for animals. Every year, many people travel to Kenya to see these animals.

Giraffes, zebras, and other grazing animals fill Kenya's **savannas**. Lions and cheetahs live on the savannas, too.



Hippos may look cute, but they can be dangerous.

Elephants, buffalo, and rhinos  
also live in Kenya. Crocodiles and  
hippos swim in its rivers and lakes.

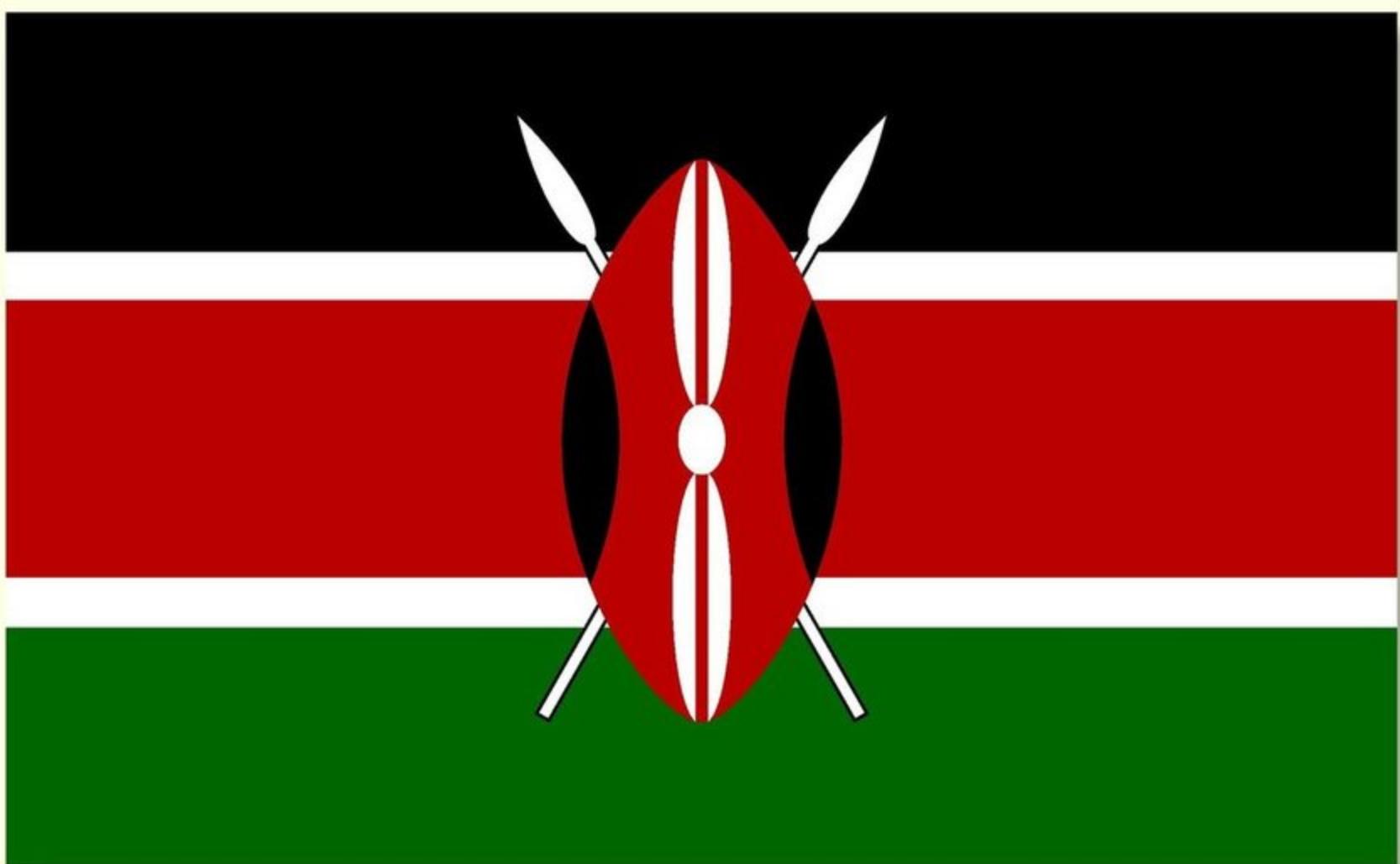
Kenya has more than a thousand  
kinds of birds. Wading birds live  
near lakes. Eagles and hawks glide  
through the air.



Nairobi has a wildlife park in its backyard. Nairobi National Park is located just a few kilometers from the city.

## Conclusion

Kenya has mountains and flat land. It has deserts, forests, and savannas. Many different tribes make up its people. Many rare animals are found there. Kenya is one of Earth's treasures.



**Population:** 45,010,056

**Land:** 569,140 sq km (219,746 sq. mi.)

**Capital City:** Nairobi

**Primary Languages:** Swahili, English

**Currency:** Kenyan shilling



Source: Central Intelligence Agency (July 2014), World Bank

## Glossary

<b>crops</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	plants grown by farmers for food or other uses; the amount of plants gathered in one season (p. 7)
<b>highlands</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	areas that have many mountains (p. 8)
<b>protected</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	guarded or defended from harm or danger (p. 12)
<b>rare</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	not happening very often; uncommon (p. 12)
<b>savannas</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	flat grasslands with few trees (p. 12)
<b>tribes</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	groups of people who share a culture and land (p. 6)

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Front and back cover: Many different animals live in Kenya's grasslands,  
including the African elephant.

Title page: A girl carries her little sister on her back in Kenya. They both belong  
to a tribe called the Samburu (sam-BOO-roo).

Page 3: Millions of flamingos live at Lake Nakuru (NUH-koo-roo) in Kenya.

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