Environment and Culture in Kenya

BY

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OUTLINE

- Introducing myself
- General facts about Kenya
- Introduction to Kenya and its culture
- Environment Policy in Kenya
- Environmental Issues
- Conclusion
- Discussion

Environment

Environmental Issues

Culture

Curriculum vitae at a glance

- **Age 34 years**
- **Professional engagement: Kenya Wildlife Service, since 2004 to date**
- **Professional Title: Ecologist**
- **Current University: Nagoya University Msc Environmental Science to Date**
- **Former University: The University of Nairobi, Bsc (Zoology, Chemistry) 2001**
- **St. Josephs High School: KCSE 1995**
- **St. Columba's High School: 1991**
- **Besiabor Nursary school: 1982**

WHERE IS KENYA?

Ethiopia (N)

Uganda (W)

(E) Somalia

Indian Ocean

S TZ

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

- ◆ Origin of Name: Mt Kenya
- ◆ Government: Constitutional Democracy
- ◆ Land Area: 580,367 km^2
- ◆ Population: 39 million (2009 census)
- ◆ Ranks 137th in the world-Population density
- ◆ Currency: Shilling (Ksh)
- ◆ Main Islands: Mombasa & Lamu
- ◆ County System: 47 Counties

CAPITAL CITY NAIROBI

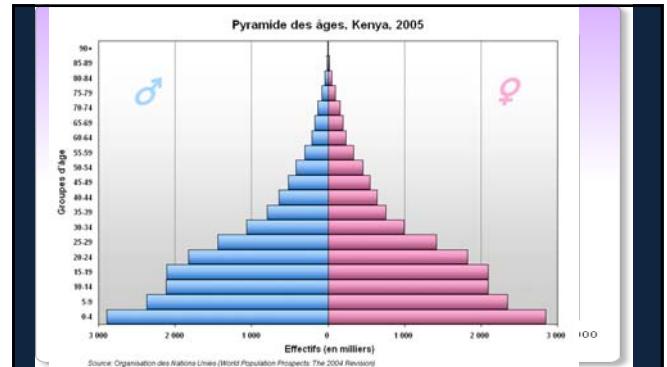## Languages Spoken

◆ A total of 43 indigenous languages

◆ 2 Official languages

    ◆ Swahili and English

◆ Language of instruction: English (80%)

◆ An average Kenyan speaks at least 3 languages

◆ Total adult literacy rate , 2005-2008* 87 % (Unicef)

Pyramide des âges, Kenya, 2005

Who is a Kenyan?

Culture Values

Education
Special events
Religion

Sports

Education

Before Westernization → Teachers were parents, grand fathers and neighbours (community)

After Westernization → Parents & trained professionals

SPORTS?

GENDER ROLE – PAST

Men

-Defending the community against enemies and wild animals
-Livestock herding
-Heavy manual work like digging land, building houses (except for Masai-female role)

Women
-Collecting firewood
-Cooking
-Taking care of young
-Fetching water, washing clothes and utensils (generally, light work)

GENDER ROLE – PRESENT

Men and Women same role

- building houses (except for Masai-female role)
- Take care of children
- Cook food
- Fetch water
- Provisions for the family

-Generally, due to female empowerment in Kenya, men and women currently share all the roles in the family

RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION:

Before

◆ Traditional African Religions e.g.
  ◆ Dini ya Msambwa
◆ Kaya worship

Current

◆ Christian-Protestant= 45% (This includes the Anglican Church of Kenya)
◆ Roman Catholic= 33%
◆ Islam= 10%
◆ Indigenous Religions=10% (Dini Ya Msambwa, Akorino, Kaya)
◆ Other= 2% (Hinduism, Sikh)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Circumcision every August and December of an Even year

Last night

Facing the knife very early morning

Inviting uncles

After circumcision

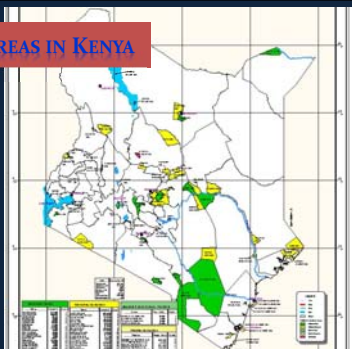Initiates dressed in mud and sheep's skin to keep bad spirits away

BULL FIGHTING

MAJOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

- Service Sector dominated by Tourism (Wildlife, Scenic beauty, Heritage sites etc), currently the biggest contributor to the Kenya's GDP. 26 National Parks
- Agriculture : 2nd contributor to Kenya's GDP
- Mining (gypsum, quarrying, whiting (carbonates of calcium and magnesium).
- Fishing.
- Car assembly.
- Car parts manufacture
- Textile Industries
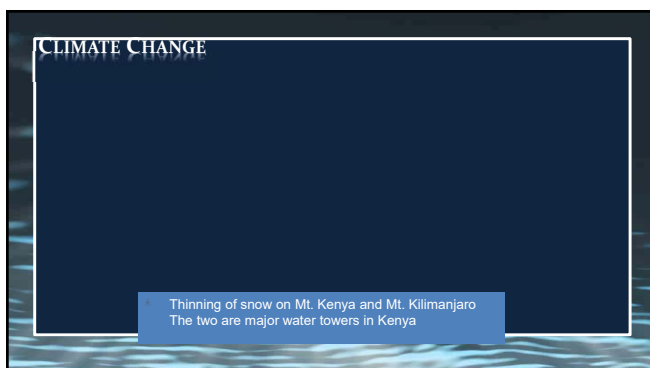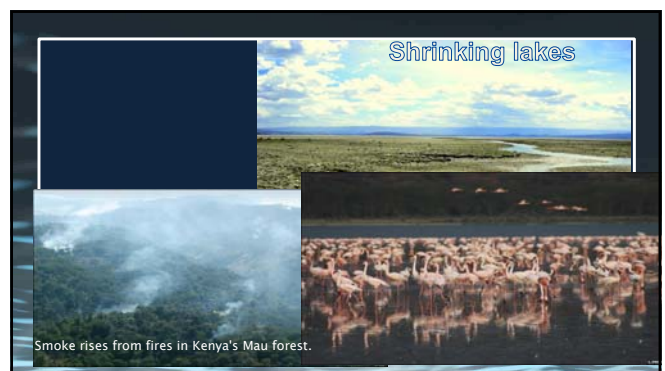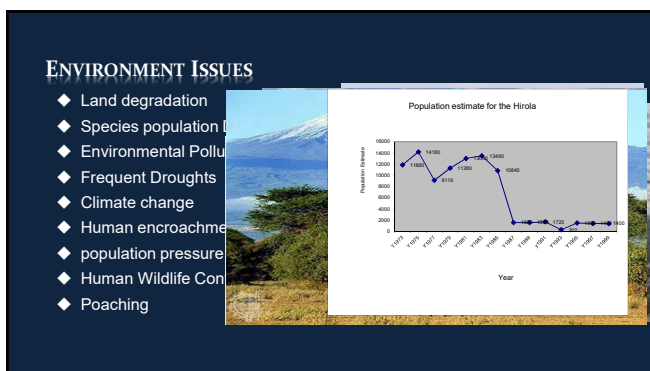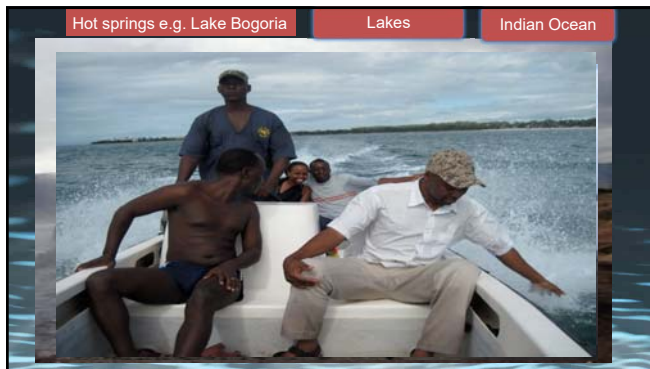- Chemical Industries
- Pharmaceutical Industries

Environmental Resources?

PROTECTED AREAS IN KENYA

Mountains

Mount Kenya   Mount Elgon

(5,199 m)

| Hot springs e.g. Lake Bogoria | Lakes | Indian Ocean |

Wildlife!!

ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

◆ Land degradation
◆ Species population D...
◆ Environmental Pollu...
◆ Frequent Droughts
◆ Climate change
◆ Human encroachme...
◆ population pressure...
◆ Human Wildlife Con...
◆ Poaching

Population estimate for the Hirola

Shrinking lakes

Smoke rises from fires in Kenya's Mau forest.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Thinning of snow on Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro
The two are major water towers in Kenya

CONSEQUENCES OF POLLUTION

Death of aquatic life e.g. fish due to eutrophication of water bodies
Emergence of invasive species such as the water hyacinth in Lake Victoria
Leached chemicals pollute surface and ground water
Public nuisance of garbage and related public health problems
Rendering of polluted water sources unsafe for consumption

Habitat destruction

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

- Changes in weather patterns due to disruption of the hydrologic cycle.
- Drying up of rivers and other water reserves
- Death of humans, livestock, wildlife and aquatic life due to food and water shortage caused by droughts.
- Human conflicts over water resources
- Disruption of economically sensitive projects such as hydro-electric stations etc.
- Soil erosion due to loss of ground cover.

ENCROACHMENT OVERVIEW

WATER PROVISION

POACHING.

STATUTORY BODIES FORMED TO DEAL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)
- Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
- Kenya Forestry Service (KFS)
- The Public Complaints Committee (PCC)
- The National Environmental Tribunal (NET)

SOME STATUTORY BODIES IN DETAIL

1) NEMA (National Environment Management Authority) since 1999

Mandate: to exercise general supervision and co-ordination over all matters relating to the environment.

The Authority is the principal instrument of Government in the implementation of all policies relating to the environment.

Section 9(2) of EMCA details 17 statutory functions that NEMA shall undertake. Coordinates EIAs and Environmental Audits

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2) KWS (Kenya Wildlife Service) since 1989.

- Stewardship of National Parks and Reserves, including security for visitors and wildlife within and outside protected areas
- Oversight of biodiversity conservation and management outside protected areas, including those under local authorities, community and private sanctuaries
- Conservation education and training
- Biodiversity research
- Input into national wildlife-related law and policy, and adapting and carrying out international conventions and protocols (CITES)

MAIN WILDLIFE POLICY

- Ban on wildlife hunting since 1977
- Revocation of Dealership in Wildlife Products since 1978.
- International Conservation protocols (CITES)
- Wildlife farming

WILDIFE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES-PERMITTED BY LAW

- Ecotourism/Educational facilities
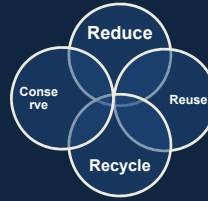- Cultural facilities.
- Wildlife farming.

Wildlife RANGERS

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION Awareness creation

Confiscated Ivory worth 5 billion Yen torched!!!!

Human Wildlife Conflict

Save the Earth's Precious Resources

- **Conserve** respect nature

- **Reduce** waste by using less

- **Reuse** containers and products

- **Recycle** old products to make new ones

We should dedicated to maintaining a natural, safe and GREEN environment...

so that our children can enjoy the same resources and beauty that we have for generations.

References

- EMCA and associated regulations
- BBC.com
- Wikipedia
- NEMA website (www.nema.go.ke)
- Mau forest taskforce secretariat (website)
- www.kws.go.ke
- www.kfs.ke.org

Open Discussion for.... Questions Comments Thoughts

Thank you

Thank you!!!!

ASSIGNMENT

Assume you are the park manager in Amboseli National Park in Kenya. The park has been invaded by local community (Masai) to access water for their livestock since their only water source has dried up. What actions will you take as a park manager given that the park is famous for for tourism? Remember the Masai are usually warriors.