Nairobi is the capital city of Kenya with a cosmopolitan population of over 3.2 million people. It is the only capital city in the world that has a national park. The park, located in natural tropical savanna grasslands is endowed with a rich variety of wildlife, making the city a unique tourist destination. The city got its name from a Maasai phrase ‘Enkare Nyorobi’ meaning ‘the place of cool waters’. Nairobi is the most populated city in East Africa and the fourth largest city in Africa. Starting off as a simple rail depot along the railway line connecting Mombasa and Uganda in 1899, today Nairobi is a hub for business and culture. It is also a home for many international organizations for research and development including the United Nations Environmental Program, UN Habitat, ILRI, WAC, CIAT, ICIPE, CIMMYT, along with International companies.

Mombasa is Kenya’s main port and popular holiday city with world class tourist facilities. It is situated on an island in a natural sheltered inlet. It is the only port that serves not only Kenya but land locked countries like Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan.

Pre and Mid Congress tours
The pre-congress tours will include the most popular Kenyan safari destinations such as National game reserves and conservancies that are located in wildlife rich savanna landscapes with organized events such as hot-air ballooning safaris, game drives and nights in stunning sceneries and white sand beaches. The mid-congress tours are designed to give the participants an overview of the grasslands/rangelands in Kenya and also meet and interact with the people who depend on the grasslands/rangelands for their livelihoods.

More information about the Joint Congress will be communicated in the 2nd and 3rd Announcements.

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**Invitation**

The Organizing Committee of the Joint XXIV International Grassland Congress and XI International Rangeland Congress, warmly invites participants to the Congress from 25 to 30th October 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Rangelands and grasslands of Kenya**

The rangeland/grassland occupy 80% of the land in Kenya. These tropical savanna grasslands/rangelands host about 70% of the national livestock population in Kenya and are home to over 90% of wild game that supports the tourism industry. Kenya has a long history of grassland/rangeland research and development in East Africa, dating back to early 19th Century, culminating in the setting up of the Grassland Research Station in 1950s. Many of the grass species either collected or developed in Kenya found their way to other tropical countries where they have been greatly improved making those countries leading beef producers globally. East Africa savannah grasslands continue to mesmerize the world in their ability to support large concentrations of wildlife that is unparalleled globally. These unique models of coexistence of people, their animals and wildlife on the savannahs is an experience to be cherished and shared with the rest of the world. Yet with all these successes and uniqueness, Kenya still faces challenges of low agricultural productivity, declining biodiversity, food insecurity, low income levels and environmental degradation.

**Conference Theme**

**Sustainable Use of Grassland/Rangeland Resources for Improved Livelihoods**

**Sessions**

The Congress will be organized under seven thematic areas of rangeland research and development with a balance between the people/social/policy and the more traditional scientific technical topics. The themes are:

- Grassland and Rangeland Ecology
- Forage Production and Utilization
- Livestock Production Systems
- Wildlife, Tourism and Multi-Facets of Rangeland/Grassland
- Drought Management and Climate Change in Rangelands
- Pastoralism, Social, Gender and Policy Issues
- Capacity Building, Extension and Governance

The congress will cover 30 sessions each dealing with a particular aspect of grassland/rangelands. Each session will be preceded by a plenary session where a keynote speaker will address thematic issues.

**Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 24th October 2020</td>
<td>Arrival of delegates; Optional workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 25th October 2020</td>
<td>Optional workshops; Opening reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 26th October 2020</td>
<td>Opening; keynotes; Plenary and technical sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 27th October 2020</td>
<td>Continuation of technical sessions; Kenyan cultural night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 28th October 2020</td>
<td>Mid congress tours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 29th October 2020</td>
<td>Technical sessions; Congress banquet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 30th October 2020</td>
<td>Technical sessions; Closing ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 31st October 2020</td>
<td>Departure of delegates</td>
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</tbody>
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**General Information of the host country**

Kenya is a country in East Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean in the south east. Neighboring countries are Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The largest and most populous city and the national capital of Kenya is Nairobi. The second largest city and the country’s chief port is Mombasa. Kenya’s landscape varies from low plains near its coast at the Indian Ocean, to a fertile plateau in the western sub-humid highlands. The country’s interior is dominated by the central highlands with the country’s highest point Mount Kenya at 5,199 m. The highlands are bisected by the Great Rift Valley, a large natural depression that runs through Kenya with a north to south orientation with fertile volcanic soils. The rest of the country is classified as tropical savanna grasslands/ rangelands.

**Geographical location of Kenya**

[Map of Kenya showing its geographical location within Africa]