

**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.

Nairobi, 'city in the sun'



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Announcements.**

**Contact information**

**Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization**

**P.O Box 57811-00200 Nairobi, Kenya**

**Tel. +254 709 104 000**

**Email. [Kalro.Information@kalro.org](mailto:Kalro.Information@kalro.org)**

**[elkana.nyambati@kalro.org](mailto:elkana.nyambati@kalro.org)**



**The Joint XXIV International Grassland/XI Rangeland**

**Congress, Nairobi, Kenya**

**25-30<sup>th</sup>, October 2020**

**Organized by**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries**



and

**Animal Production Society of Kenya**



**Technical Secretariat**

**Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization**



## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 key note speaker will address thematic issues.

## 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



Program	
Date	Activity
Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Arrival of delegates; Optional workshops
Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Optional workshops; Opening reception
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Opening; keynotes; Plenary and technical sessions
Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Continuation of technical sessions; Kenyan cultural night
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Mid congress tours
Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Technical sessions; Congress banquet
Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Technical sessions; Closing ceremony
Saturday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	Departure of delegates

Official languages	English, Swahili
Government	Democratic
President	Uhuru Kenyatta
Total area	580,367 sq. km
Population (Est. 2015)	45,925,301
Per Capita	1,246 USD
Currency	Kenyan Shilling
Time zone	East African Time (UTC+03.00)
Calling code	+254