

# Land rights critical to Kenya violence

Underlying the ethnic violence in Kenya is the clash between cultural and legal ownership of land dating back to the colonial era. Most “unclaimed” land – occupied by Africans – was appropriated by the Crown and then, post-independence, bought and settled mainly by displaced ethnic Kikuyu



100 miles

160km

## LAND DISTRIBUTION AND ETHNIC DIVISION

- ◆ Ethnic violence
- Medium-high farming potential

SUDAN

UGANDA

*Communal lands sold as farmland by government*

Eldoret

Kakamega

**WESTERN**  
Luhya

Kisumu

**NYANZA**  
Luo, Kisii  
Lake Victoria

**CENTRAL**  
Kikuyu

LAND USE  
(hectares)

Farmland 9.3m

National parks 5.8m

Forests 3.8m

Arid, semi-arid 39.4m

**RIFT VALLEY**  
Kalenjin majority

Nakuru

Naivasha

**EASTERN**

**NORTH EASTERN**  
Somali majority

Meru,  
Embu,  
Kamba

Nairobi

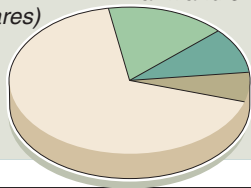
Kibera

SOMALIA

**COAST**  
Mijikenda,  
Taita-Taveta

Mombasa

INDIAN OCEAN



Source: United Nations

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