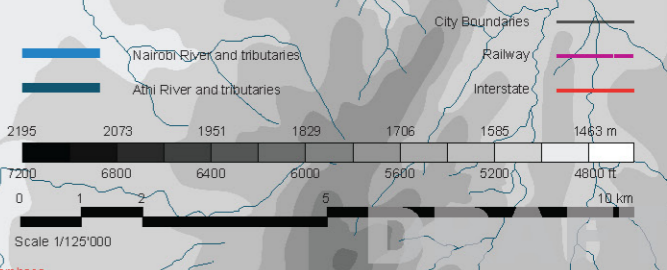
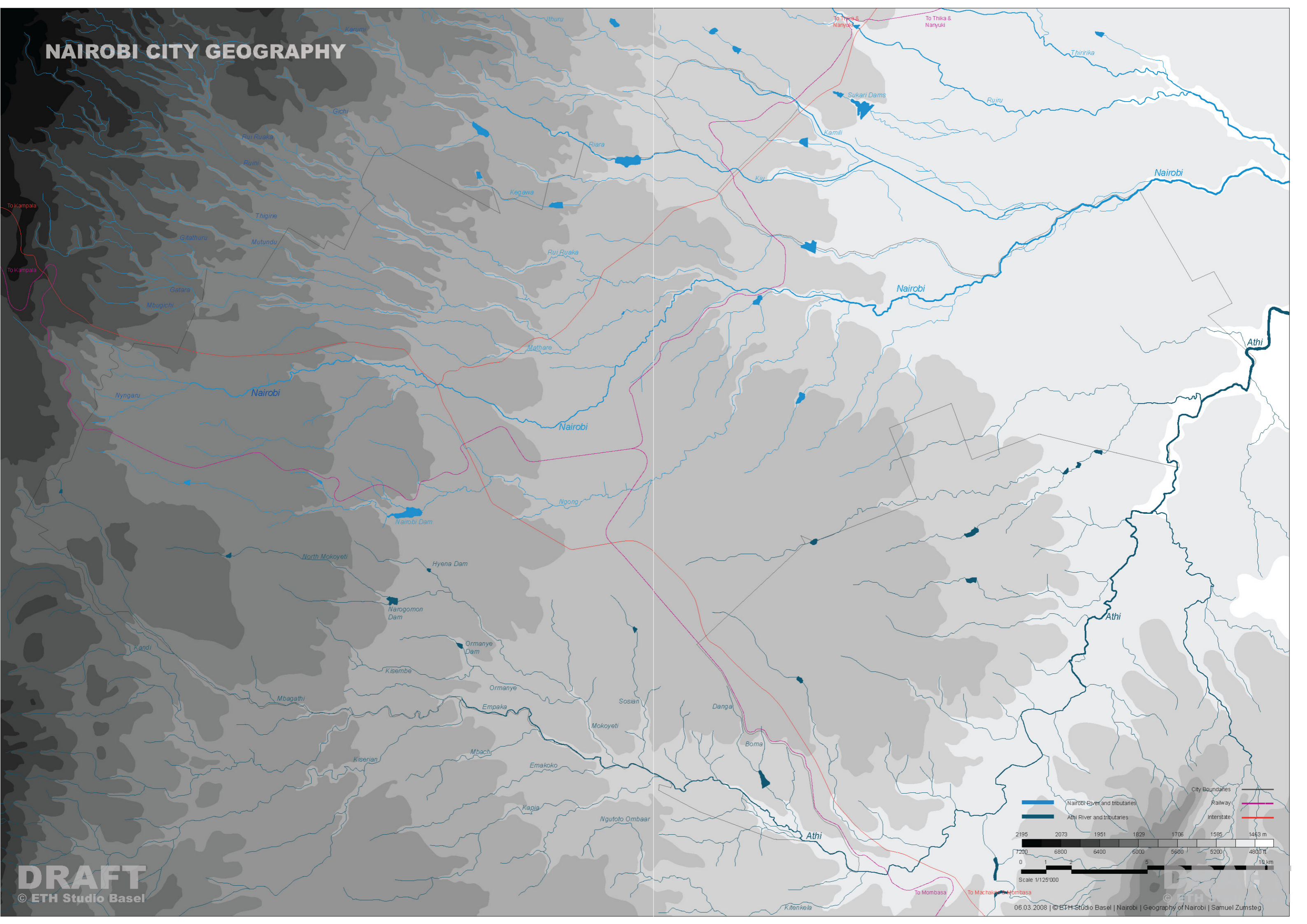


NAIROBI CITY GEOGRAPHY



DRAFT
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NAIROBI CITY GEOGRAPHY

Nairobi is situated in the south of Kenya, 36°50' east and 1°17' south. The city lies on the Nairobi river, at a height of 1670 m above sea-level. It covers an area of 684 km² and has around 2.2 million inhabitants.

Four major land routes meet in Nairobi. The East African R railways, coming from Mombasa and continuing to Kampala, enter the Kenyan Highlands at this point. Other routes lead to Thika and Nanyuki to the north and into Tanzania to the south.

Nairobi lies on the boundary between two geographical regions: The Athi Plains and the Kikuyu Plateau.

Travelling across the Athi Plains and the Kikuyu Plateau, altitude and rainfall increase and temperature decreases gradually.

However, there is a sudden change in soil, vegetation, land use and population density. This is due to a change of gradient from level to sloping land. A very fertile „red coffee“ soil is only to be found where the land slopes enough to allow rain water to drain away. On level land, a less fertile, heavy black clay („black cotton“) is predominant.

KIKUYU PLATEAU

- Rainfall about 1000 - 1300 mm / year
- Land mostly cleared from the original forest
- Cultivated parts: Australian black wattle and others
- Non-cultivated parts: Kikuyu grass, which is green all year around, excellent for cattle and an effective check to soil erosion.
- Crops: corn, sweet potatoes, bananas, wattle, vegetables, coffee, tea
- Farm animals: cattle and goats
- Soil: a fertile, clayey loam („red coffee“ soil)

ATHI PLAINS

- Rainfall about 500 mm / year
- Grassland with thorny bushes, eukalyptus trees
- Crops: Sisal is grown on a large scale. Large parts of the land are not

cultivated, but used for grazing.

- Farm animals: cattle, mainly used for dairy produce. As the land is rather dry, each animal requires much land.

- Soil: heavy black clay („black cotton“), relatively infertile

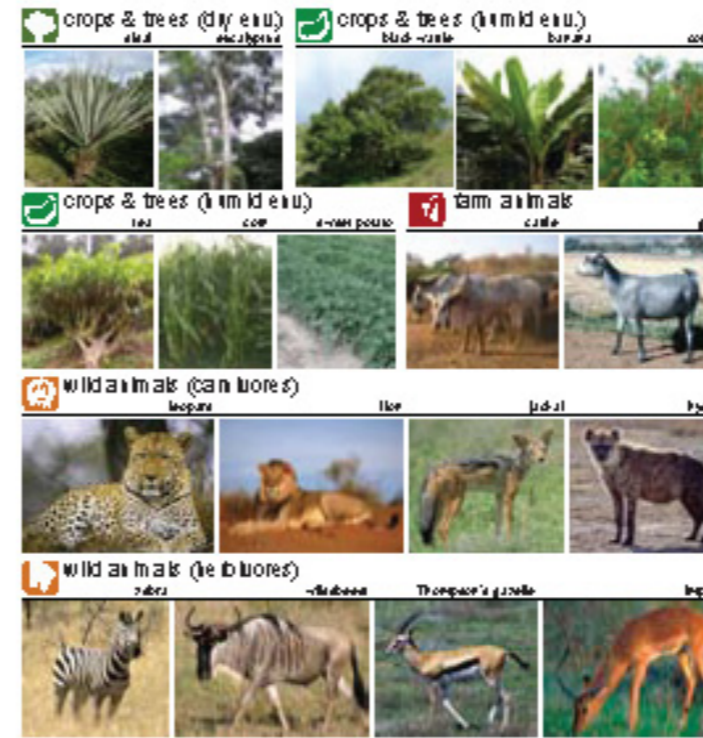
NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

- Wild animals, such as wildebeest, impala, Thompson's gazelle, zebra, lion, leopard, hyena and jackal amongst others

Fauna & Flora (dispersion)

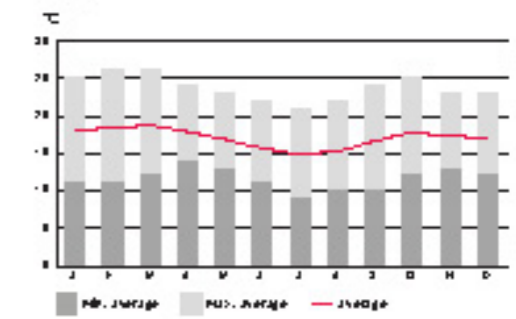


Fauna & Flora (selected plants and animals)

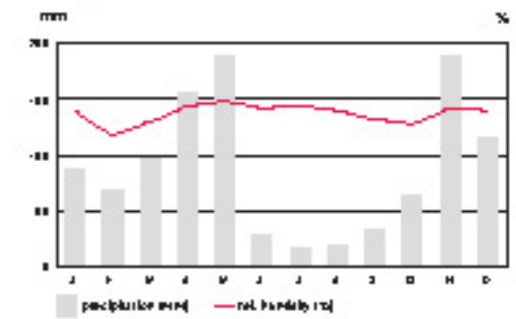


Climate

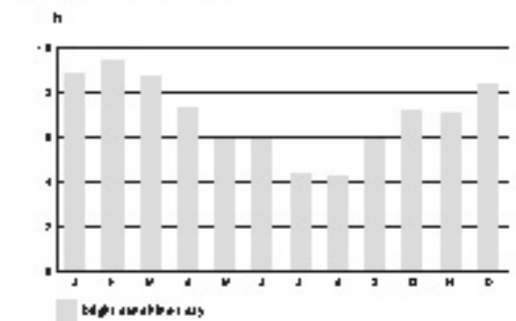
Temperature



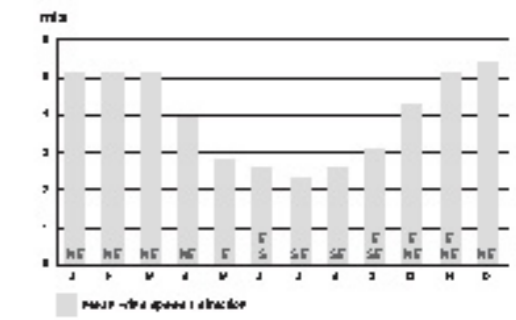
Precipitation



Sunshine duration



Wind



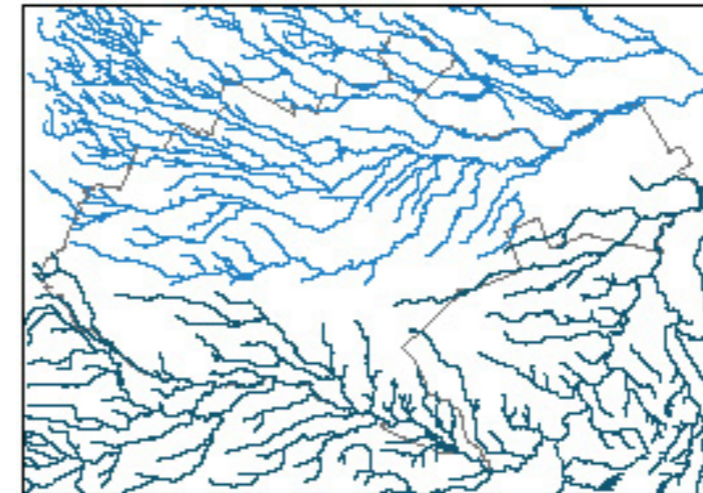
Boundaries



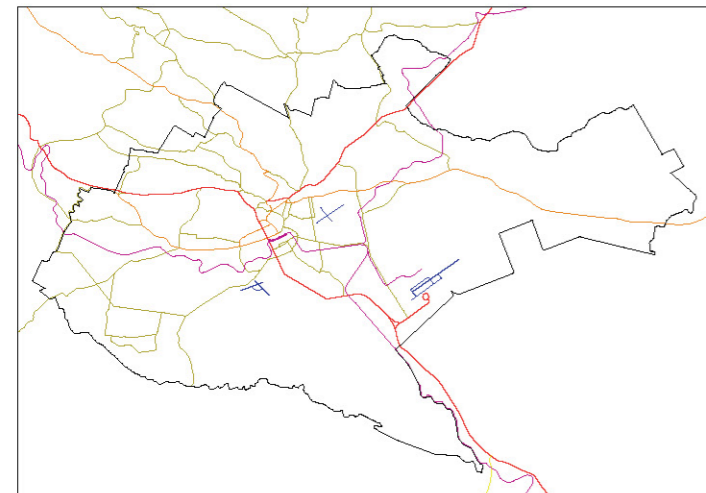
Topography



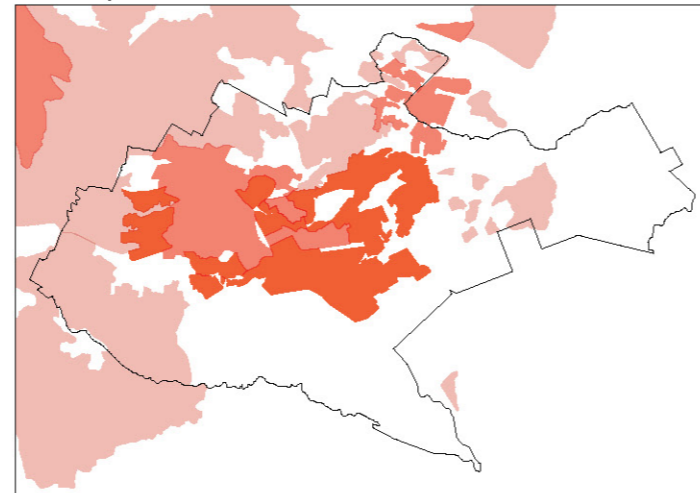
Rivers & Lakes



Infrastructure



Built-up area



Forests & National Parks

