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ECONOMICS
FOUNDATION

**Flowers, elephants & conflicts:
Kenya's progress on inequality & sustainability**

9 December 2016

David Powell, New Economics Foundation

Kenya

Four case studies

Turkana County

Mount Kenya

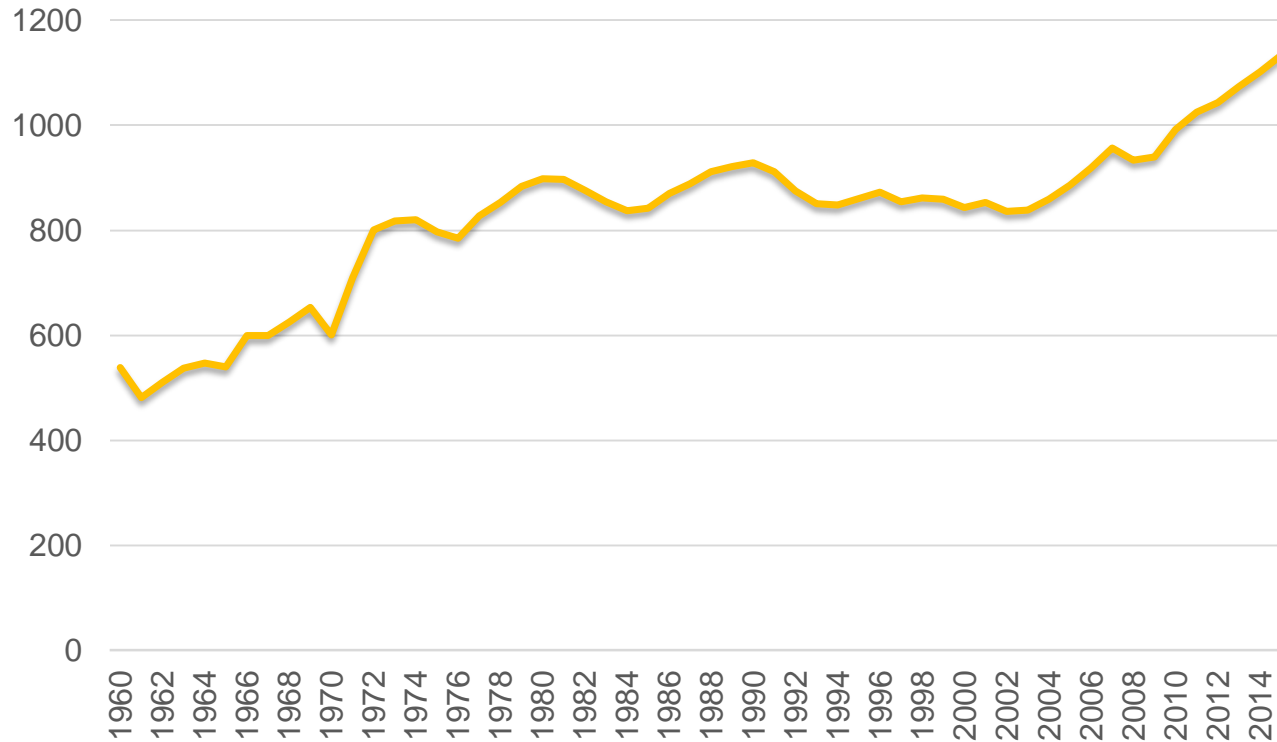
Lake Naivasha

(Tana Delta)



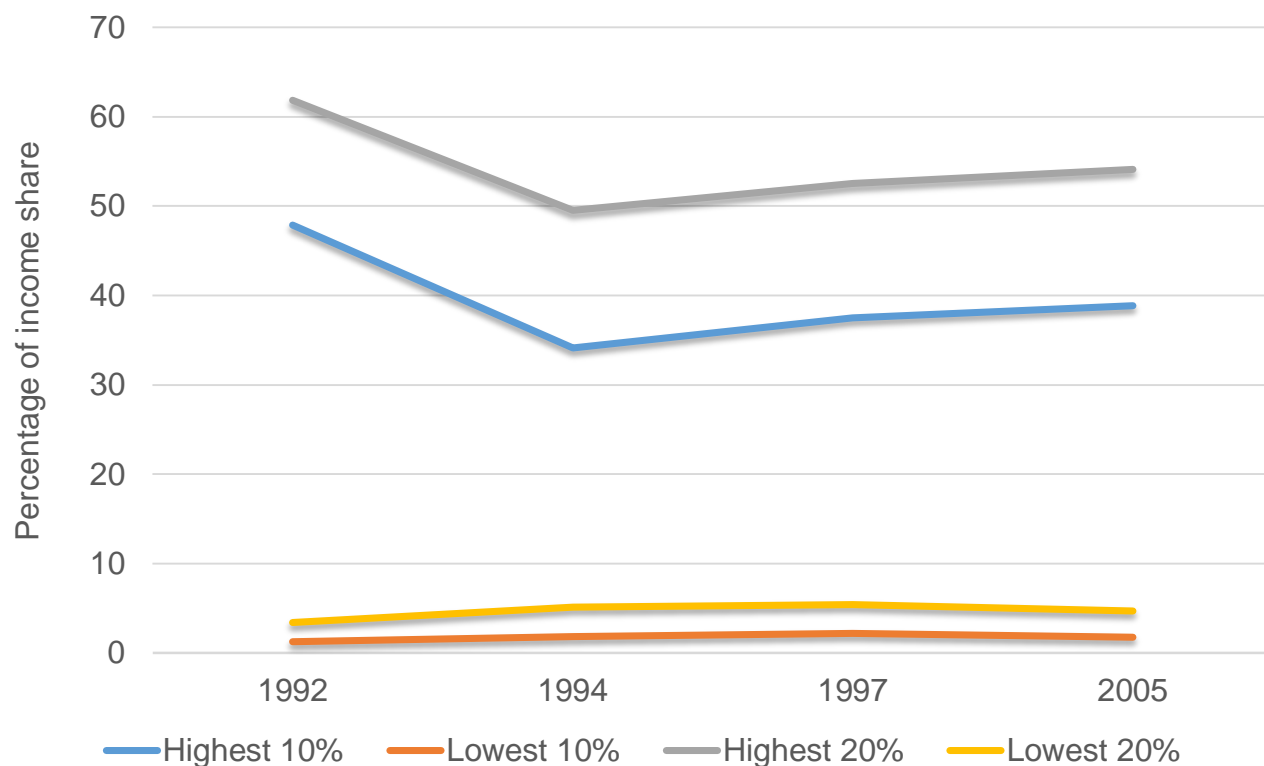
Kenya

GDP doubled since 1960 (US\$ nominal)



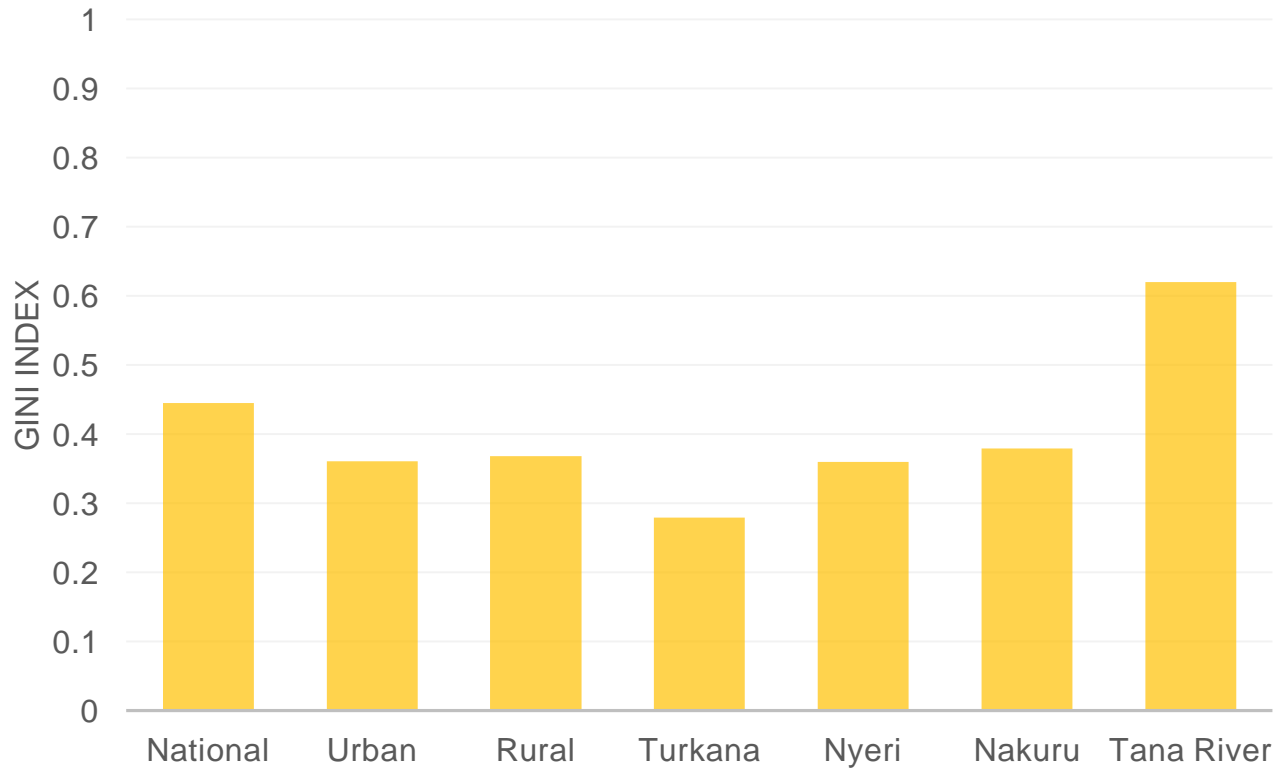
Kenya

Income share of top & bottom deciles



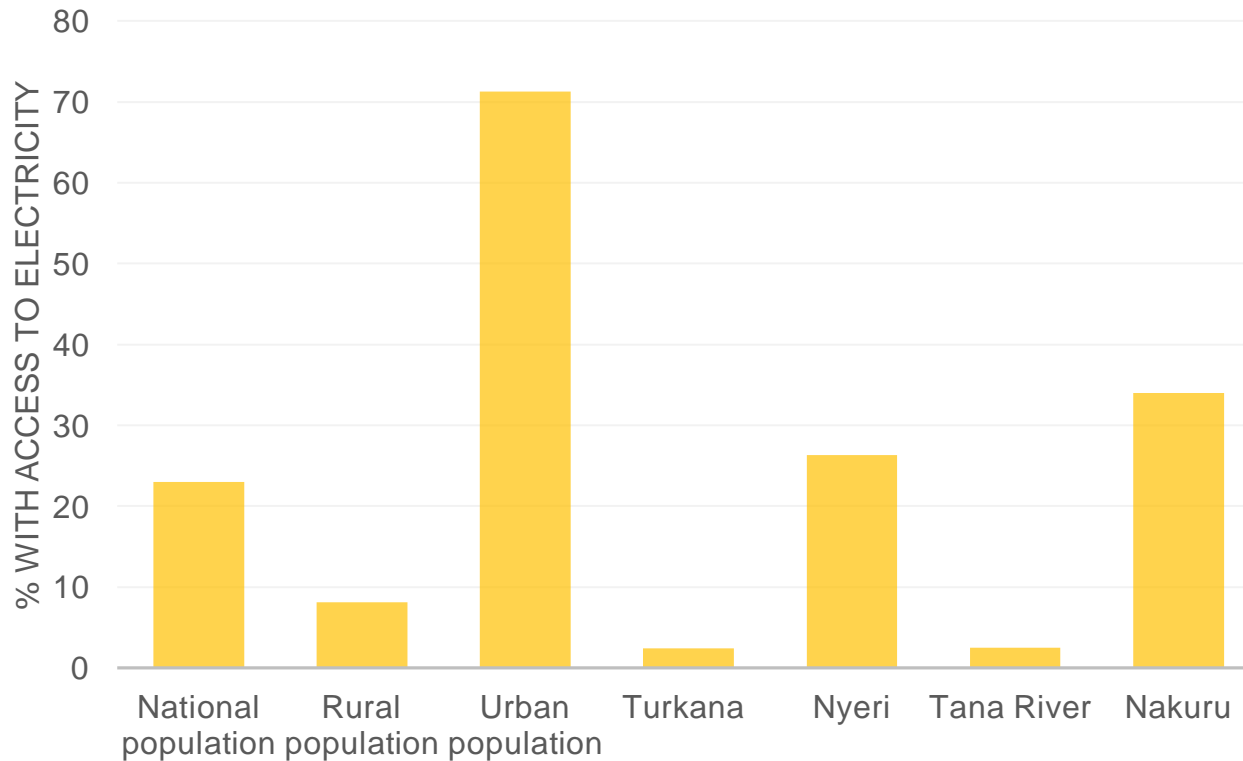
Kenya

Inequality



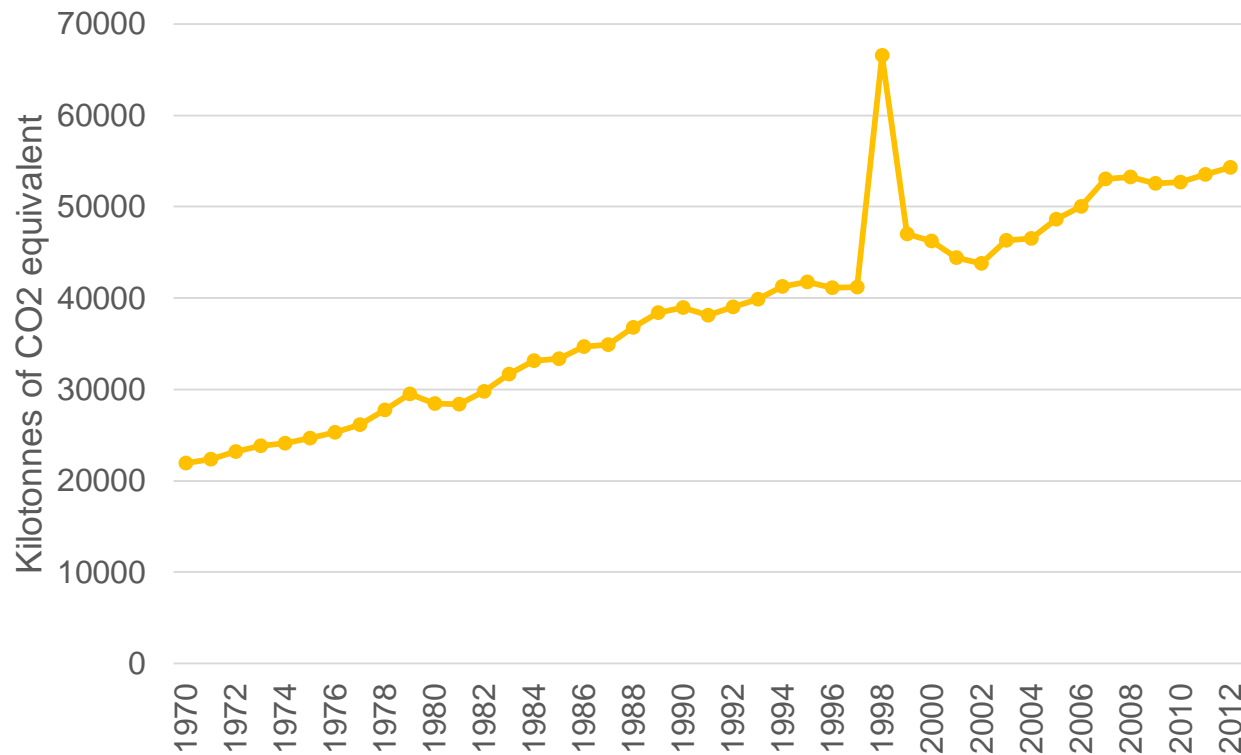
Kenya

Electricity access across Kenya



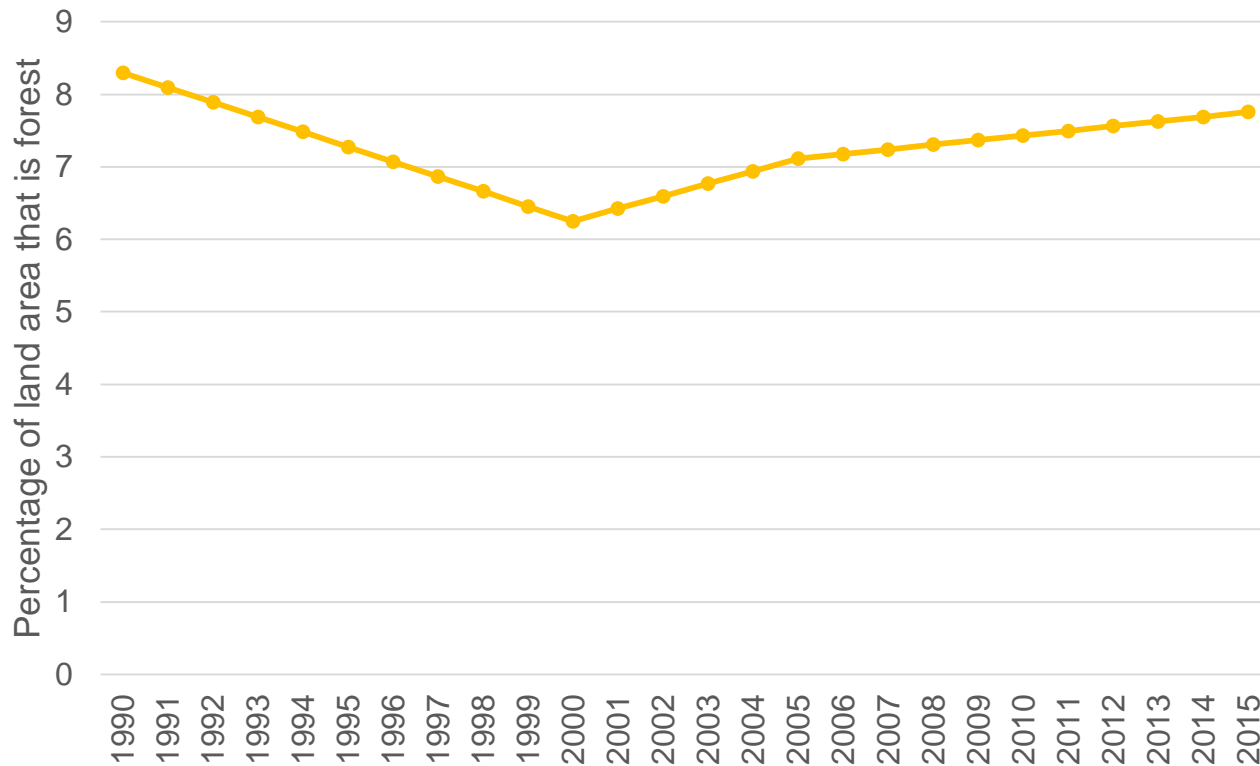
Kenya

Greenhouse gas emissions 1970-2012



Kenya

De/reforestation



Turkana County

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Turkana County

**Large arid region
dominated by nomadic
pastoralists**

Borders Uganda, Ethiopia,
South Sudan

Investment infrastructure
lacking – worst in Kenya



Turkana County

**Suffering prolonged
drought**

Higher competition for
resources & dangerous borders

Climate change is added factor

Conflict results



Turkana County

Oil discovered

Communal land privatised

Inward migration and
investment increased

More jobs but poorly paid

Communities to benefit but
need tenure of land



Turkana County

“The leaders in that part of the country are taking advantage of the ignorance of the people of Turkana. Due to their lack of education they don't understand their rights, they don't even know what a title deed is because they have never had it. That is why they are losing out.”

**Kenyan social justice activist,
Boniface Mwangi, 2015**

Mount Kenya

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Mount Kenya

Tourism is 10% Kenya GDP

Strong economic incentive to preserve
wildlife

But across Africa biodiversity is
decreasing

Animals and people don't always live
peacefully side by side

Mount Kenya

2,600 elephants in Mount Kenya
National Park

A protected area of 2,800km² which
ends abruptly against one of most
densely populated regions in country

Dry season lasting longer, soil less
productive, glaciers depleter

Mount Kenya

Farmers lose crops and money through elephant raids – estimated over 2,000 a year

Particular impact on subsistence farmers

Protests

Farmers feel of secondary importance

Mount Kenya

Strategies to manage include education; compensation schemes; partial access to reserve

Mount Kenya Elephant Corridor creates access points

Must engage local people and share benefits of ecotourism

Lake Naivasha

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Lake Naivasha

Population of Kenya has doubled since 1990

Freshwater resources have declined by 45%

How to square population and industry with finite natural resources with many claims?

Lake Naivasha

Only freshwater lake in Rift Valley

1982 first farm started to cultivate flowers – now 100

Population boom around lake – 500,000 people

Experts fear could dry up by 2035

Run-off back into lake, impacting wildlife

Lake Naivasha

Big impact on communities that traditionally call the basin home – Masai & Kikuyu

Land privatised, less access to grazing pastures

Voice not heard in formal agreements, lacking political power

How to balance competing demands?

Implications

Economic growth alone won't deliver environmental sustainability or inequality

Everyone's rights (to natural resources) must be taken equally seriously

Short-term benefits mask long-term costs