

Session 2: Plants of Kenya

2.1 Recap from last week

Does everyone remember what we talked about last week?

Ask the group to describe what was talked about in the session the week before (birds in Kenya)

Je, kila mtu anakumbuka tulichozungumzia wiki iliyopita?

Lecture on the Plants of Kenya

Kenya has lots of kinds of plants because the country has lots of types of land and weather in different regions. In Kenya there are rainforests on the coast, there are forests on mountains, there are plants in the desert, there are plants that grow in water, and there are plants which are grown as crops. In the south there are lots of acacia trees, and also lots of baobab trees and thorny bushes.

Kenya ina aina mingi ya mimea kwa sababu nchi ina aina mingi za shamba na hali ya anga ni tofauti kila sehemu. Kenya kuna rainforests pwani, kuna misitu kwenye milima, kuna mimea kwa jangwa, kuna mimea ambayo hukua kwa maji, na kuna mimea ambazo huka kama mazao. Kusini kuna miti mingi sana ya acacia, na pia miti ya baobab na vichaka vya miba.

In the savannahs of the Masai Mara there are lots of kinds of animals. The grass grows fast after the rains, and is food for many animals and insects. When the herbivore animals that live in the Masai Mara walk all over and graze on the Mara, it promotes the growth of grasses instead of plants with big leaves. Plants with big leaves get more easily damaged by grazing, drought and fire.

Kwa savannah ya Masai Mara kuna aina mingi ya wanyama. Nyasi humea haraka sana baada ya mvua, na ni chakula kwa wanyama wengi na wadudu. Wanyama wa kula nyasi wanapotembea kila mahali na kula nyasi huko Mara, hufanya nyasi kuendelea kumea badala ya mimea na iliyo na matawi makubwa. Mimea iliyo na matawi makubwa huharibiwa kwa urahisi badala ya kuliwa, kiangazi na moto.

There are different kinds of plants on the slopes of Mt Elgon and Mt Kenya as you go towards the peak. There is dense forest between 1000m and 2000m. Next is bamboo forest that reaches as high as about 3000m. Above this height is mountain moorland. This has the groundsel tree and giant lobelia trees.

Kuna aina tofauti tofauti ya mimea kwenye mlima Elgon na mlima Kenya unapoendelea kwenda juu. Kuna msitu mkubwa kati ya 1000m na 2000m. Kisha kuna msitu wa bamboo ambao huenda umbali wa 3000m. Juu ya urefu huu kuna mlima moorland. Hii ina miti ya groundsel na giant lobelia.

There are 778 types of plant in the Aberdare National Park in west central Kenya. The forest has four areas with different kinds of plants. In the lowest area there is moorland with shrubs or small bushes. Then there is a humid forest. Then there is an evergreen forest. Lastly comes another variety of mountain forest.

Kuna aina 778 ya mimea kwenye hifadhi ya Aberdare magharibi ya kati ya Kenya. Msitu huu una sehemu nne na aina tofauti ya mimea. Kwenye sehemu ya chini ni moorland ukiwa na shrubs au vichaka vidogo. Kisha kuna msitu ulio na unyevu nyevu. Kisha kuna evergreen forest. Mwisho kuna aina kadhaa ya mountain forest.

In the desert plains of the north and northeast of Kenya the most common plant is thorny bush. In the northern coastal areas the most common type of plant is mangroves. There are also still a few small areas of rainforest on the coast.

Kwenye jangwa upande wa kaskazini na kaskazini mashariki mwa Kenya mmea unaopatikana sana ni msituu wenye miba (thorny bush), Kaskazini mwa pwani ndio kuna aina maarufu za mmea wa mangrove. Pia kuna sehemu chache zenye misitu ya mvua pwani.

Acacia Trees

There are more than 800 types of acacia tree in the world. Most have small green leaves. Other kinds of acacia tree don't have any leaves. These are the kinds which grow in the desert and don't get much rain. Instead of leaves they have thorns. Some acacia trees have small flowers. These flowers are often yellow or white.

Most acacia trees live for around 15 to 30 years. They can grow as tall as 13m high.

Kuna aina Zaidi ya 800 ya miti ya acacia duniani. Nyingi huwa na matawi madogo ya kijani kibichi. Aina zingine za acacia huwa hazina matawi. Hizi ni aina ambazo humea kwenye jangwa na hazipati mvua mingi. Badala ya matawi, zina miiba. Miti zingine za acacia zina maua madogo. Maua haya mara mingi huwa manjano au meupe. Miti mingi ya acacia huishi kwa miaka 15 hadi 30. Inaweza kuwa kwa kimo cha mita kumi na tatu.

Mangroves

Mangroves are a kind of tree that grow on the coast of Kenya. There are nine kinds of mangrove in Kenya. Most grow out of mud, but some also grow out of sand. Unlike most plants, they can live in very salty water that is calm and peaceful, without too many waves. They grow well in a warm climate of around 20 degrees.

Mangroves ni aina za miti ambazo huwa zinamea kwenye pwani ya Kenya. Kuna aina tisa za mangroves nchini Kenya. Mingi humea kwa tope lakini pia nyingine humea kwenye mchanga.

Tofauti na mimea zingine, zinaweza kuishi kwenye sehemu ya maji ya chumvi iliyotulia, bila upepo mwingi. Humea vyema kwenye hali ya hewa iliyo na joto kidogo kama 20 degrees.

Baobab Tree

The baobab tree has been growing on earth longer than humans. It is native to the African savannah because its climate is very dry and hot. It absorbs water from the ground and stores it in its trunk so that it can survive through the dry season. They can live for 5000 years and provide shelter, food and water for animals and humans. The baobab has a fruit which can be eaten, a bark which can be turned into rope and seeds which can be used for oil.

Mti wa baobab umekuwa ukimea duniani kwa muda mrefu kuliko wanadamu. Umetokea kwenye African savannah kwa vile hali yake ya hewa ni iliyokauka na yenye joto. Huwa inachukua maji kwenye ardhi na kuiweka kwa shina ili iweze kuishi wakati wa ukame. Zinaweza kuishi kwa miaka 5000 na hupeana makazi, chakula na maji kwa wanyama na binadamu. Baobab ina tunda ambalo linaweza kulika, Bark ambayo inaweza kutengezwa Kamba na mbegu ambazo zaweza tumika kama mafuta.

Exercise 1: A discussion about plants

Ask the group:

- Did you know about all the plants we talked about before?
- Does anybody know more about any of these plants that we didn't talk about already?
- What sorts of vegetation and plants are found in these areas?
- What is your favourite plant?

Prompt any other questions to keep the conversation going about plants

Uliza kikundi:

- *Je, ulijua kuhusu mimea yote ambayo tumeongea kuhusu?*
- *Je kuna yeyote ambaye anajua Zaidi kuhusu mojawapo ya hizi mimea ambazo bado hatujaongelea?*
- *Ni aina ipi ya mimea ambazo zinapatikana kwenye sehemu hii?*
- *Ni mmea upi unapenda sana?*

Exercise 2: Making a list of the plants of Kenya

Now please write down all the different kinds of plant that you can think of. They can be ones that we already mentioned or other ones that you know about.

Sasa tafadhali andika chini mimea yote ambayo unaweza kufikiria kuhusu. Inaweza kuwa ile ambayo tushataja au ile ambayo unajua kuhusu.

Exercise 3: Drawing plants

Now please draw a picture of some plants. It can be a plant you see a lot in this area, or any plant you would like to draw.

Sasa tafadhali chora picha ya baadhi ya mimea. Inaweza kuwa ni mmea ambao wewe huona sana katika eneo lako, au mmea wowote ambao ungependa kuchora.

Wrap up

Thank you for joining us to talk about plants! What did you learn that was new to you this week?

Asante kwa kujumuika nasi kuongea kuhusu mimea! Nini ulichojifunza ambacho kilikuwa kipya kwako hii wiki?