
COMPANION TO THE EIGHT-VOLUME REFERENCE

AFRICA

APPENDIX D

Country Profiles — East Africa

Burundi · Comoros · Djibouti · Eritrea · Ethiopia · Kenya · Madagascar · Mauritius · Rwanda · Seychelles · Somalia · South Sudan · Tanzania · Uganda

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About These Profiles

AFRICA: AN ENCYCLOPEDIC REFERENCE — 2026 EDITION

This is the fourth of five regional installments of the **Country Profiles**, the companion series to the eight-volume main reference compiled and edited by Marie-Soleil Seshat Landry and published by Landry Industries Inc. under the Marie Landry's Spy Shop imprint, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

The eight-volume reference (Volumes I-VIII) is complete, and the companion series profiles all 54 African states across five appendices — A: North Africa, B: West Africa, C: Central Africa, D: East Africa, and E: Southern Africa. **This appendix covers the fourteen states of East Africa** — the Horn, the Great Lakes, the Rift Valley, and the western Indian Ocean — the continent's most internally diverse region, spanning Africa's second-most-populous country and its very smallest. Each profile gives a country's essential data at a glance, followed by a short narrative.

A NOTE ON DATA, CURRENCY, AND CITATION INTEGRITY

Country data is a snapshot taken in **June 2026**. East Africa saw exceptional turbulence in 2025–26, and the following were verified for this appendix: **Uganda** (Museveni's seventh term, January 2026); **Tanzania** (Samia Suluhu Hassan's contested re-election and deadly protests, October 2025); **Madagascar** (a Gen Z uprising and October 2025 military takeover); **Djibouti** (Guelleh's sixth term, April 2026); **Seychelles** (a new president, October 2025); and the conflict situations in **Somalia**, **South Sudan**, and **Ethiopia**. All current heads of state and latest population and GDP figures are keyed to the numbered *References*.

Stable facts — capitals, areas, independence dates, currencies, and official languages — are from established reference knowledge. GDP is nominal and in US dollars; figures are the latest available estimates and may carry a short lag (Ethiopia's in particular reflect a 2024 currency float). Nothing is reproduced verbatim.

Companion series:

A — NORTH AFRICA · B — WEST AFRICA · C — CENTRAL AFRICA (PUBLISHED)

D — EAST AFRICA (THIS INSTALLMENT)

Burundi · Comoros · Djibouti · Eritrea · Ethiopia · Kenya · Madagascar · Mauritius · Rwanda · Seychelles · Somalia · South Sudan · Tanzania · Uganda

E — SOUTHERN AFRICA (TO FOLLOW)

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APPENDIX D

East Africa

The continent's most varied region — the cradle of humanity in the Rift Valley, the conflict-scarred Horn, the Great Lakes, and the high-income island democracies of the Indian Ocean. Home to Africa's second-largest nation, Ethiopia, and its smallest, Seychelles.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Burundi | 8. Mauritius |
| 2. Comoros | 9. Rwanda |
| 3. Djibouti | 10. Seychelles |
| 4. Eritrea | 11. Somalia |
| 5. Ethiopia | 12. South Sudan |
| 6. Kenya | 13. Tanzania |
| 7. Madagascar | 14. Uganda |

East Africa: The Fourteen States

East Africa is the continent's most internally diverse region, defended by no single defining feature. It includes the Horn of Africa, where Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan grapple with conflict and fragile statehood; the Great Lakes and Rift Valley, where Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi anchor the East African Community; and the western Indian Ocean, where the island states of Mauritius and Seychelles enjoy the highest incomes per head on the continent. Unlike West and Central Africa, the region shares no common currency. It is also the cradle of humanity, the source of the Nile, and — in 2025-26 — the epicentre of a wave of contested elections and youth-led uprisings. The profiles follow in alphabetical order.

EAST AFRICA · PROFILE 1 OF 14

Burundi

Republic of Burundi

CAPITAL	Gitega (political); Bujumbura (largest city & economic capital)
POPULATION	~13 million
AREA	27,834 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Kirundi, French, and English
CURRENCY	Burundian franc (BIF)
HEAD OF STATE	President Évariste Ndayishimiye (since 2020)
INDEPENDENCE	1 July 1962 (from Belgium)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$3 billion ; per-capita ~US\$230 — among the world's lowest
KEY SECTORS	Coffee and tea (the main exports), subsistence agriculture, nickel reserves

A small, densely populated Great Lakes country, Burundi is consistently ranked among the world's poorest nations, its economy overwhelmingly agricultural and its development held back by decades of ethnic conflict that paralleled neighbouring Rwanda's. President Évariste Ndayishimiye took office in 2020 after the sudden death of the authoritarian Pierre Nkurunziza, easing some of the country's international isolation. Burundi shares the Hutu-Tutsi cleavage of the region and remains heavily dependent on coffee and tea exports and on external aid.

EAST AFRICA · PROFILE 2 OF 14

Comoros

Union of the Comoros

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Moroni (on Grande Comore)
POPULATION	~850,000
AREA	1,861 km ² (three main islands)
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Comorian, Arabic, and French
CURRENCY	Comorian franc (KMF)
HEAD OF STATE	President Azali Assoumani (since 2016; re-elected 2024; first took power in a 1999 coup)
INDEPENDENCE	6 July 1975 (from France)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$1.3 billion ; per-capita ~US\$1,500
KEY SECTORS	Vanilla, cloves, ylang-ylang (perfume essence), fishing, remittances

A volcanic archipelago between Mozambique and Madagascar, the Comoros is one of Africa's smallest and most coup-prone states, having experienced some twenty coups or attempts since independence from France in 1975. A fourth island, Mayotte, voted to remain French and is administered by Paris. President Azali Assoumani, who first seized power in 1999 and returned via the ballot box, has dominated politics for years. The economy relies on agricultural exports of vanilla and perfume essences and on remittances from a large diaspora in France.

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Djibouti

Republic of Djibouti

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Djibouti City
POPULATION	~1.1 million
AREA	23,200 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	French and Arabic
CURRENCY	Djiboutian franc (DJF)
HEAD OF STATE	President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh (since 1999; re-elected to a sixth term in April 2026) ^[5]
INDEPENDENCE	27 June 1977 (from France)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$4.5 billion ; per-capita ~US\$4,000
KEY SECTORS	Ports and logistics, foreign military bases, transit trade (the gateway for landlocked Ethiopia)

Tiny but strategically priceless, Djibouti sits at the mouth of the Red Sea on the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, and hosts military bases for the United States, France, China, Japan, and others — “our geography is our oil,” as its officials put it. Its economy is built on ports and logistics, serving as the principal trade outlet for landlocked Ethiopia next door. President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, in power since 1999, won a sixth term in April 2026 after a constitutional amendment lifted the age limit that would have barred him.^[5]

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Eritrea

State of Eritrea

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Asmara
POPULATION	~3.5 million
AREA	117,600 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Tigrinya, Arabic, and English (in practice)
CURRENCY	Eritrean nakfa (ERN)
HEAD OF STATE	President Isaias Afwerki (since independence in 1993; no national elections have ever been held)
INDEPENDENCE	24 May 1993 (from Ethiopia, after a 30-year war)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$2.5 billion (estimates are unreliable)
KEY SECTORS	Mining (gold, copper, potash), subsistence agriculture, remittances

One of the world's most closed and repressive states, Eritrea has been ruled by Isaias Afwerki since it won independence from Ethiopia in 1993 following a three-decade liberation war. No national elections have ever been held, no independent press is permitted, and an open-ended system of national conscription drives a steady outflow of refugees. Often likened to North Korea, Eritrea maintains a tightly controlled, militarised economy, with mining as the main source of formal revenue and a fraught relationship with Ethiopia that has flared again in recent years.

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Ethiopia

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Addis Ababa (seat of the African Union)
POPULATION	~ 130 million — the second-most populous in Africa
AREA	1,104,300 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Amharic (federal working language; many others, incl. Oromo)
CURRENCY	Ethiopian birr (ETB)
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (since 2018); ceremonial President Taye Atske Selassie ^[4]
INDEPENDENCE	Never colonised (briefly occupied by Italy, 1936–41)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$120 billion (following a 2024 currency float); per-capita ~US\$1,000
KEY SECTORS	Agriculture (the world's fifth-largest coffee producer), manufacturing, the GERD hydropower dam, Ethiopian Airlines

Africa's oldest independent nation and never formally colonised, Ethiopia is the continent's second-most-populous country and the diplomatic seat of the African Union. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, has overseen an era of both reform and turmoil: the devastating Tigray war (2020–22) ended with the Pretoria agreement, but conflicts in the Amhara and Oromia regions persist, and tensions with Eritrea have resurfaced over Ethiopia's push for sea access. ^[4] The vast Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a symbol of national ambition, was completed and inaugurated in 2025.

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Kenya

Republic of Kenya

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Nairobi
POPULATION	~56 million
AREA	580,367 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Swahili and English
CURRENCY	Kenyan shilling (KES)
HEAD OF STATE	President William Ruto (since 2022)
INDEPENDENCE	12 December 1963 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$115 billion — East Africa's largest economy; per-capita ~US\$2,000
KEY SECTORS	Services and finance, agriculture (tea, horticulture), tourism, technology ("Silicon Savannah"), the M-Pesa mobile-money system

The commercial and technological hub of East Africa, Kenya hosts the regional headquarters of countless multinationals in Nairobi and pioneered the mobile-money revolution through M-Pesa. President William Ruto, elected in 2022, has faced significant unrest, most notably the youth-led "Gen Z" protests of 2024 against tax rises and corruption that forced him to withdraw a finance bill. A relatively diversified economy built on services, agriculture, and tourism makes Kenya one of the region's anchors, though high public debt and inequality remain pressing challenges.

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Madagascar

Republic of Madagascar

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Antananarivo
POPULATION	~ 32 million
AREA	587,041 km ² — the world's fourth-largest island
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Malagasy and French
CURRENCY	Malagasy ariary (MGA)
HEAD OF STATE	Col. Michael Randrianirina , transitional president (took power in the October 2025 military takeover) ^[2]
INDEPENDENCE	26 June 1960 (from France)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$16 billion ; per-capita ~US\$500 — among the world's lowest
KEY SECTORS	Vanilla (the world's largest producer), cloves, nickel and cobalt, textiles, tourism

The world's fourth-largest island and a biodiversity treasure-house found nowhere else on Earth, Madagascar is also one of its poorest countries, repeatedly destabilised by political crises and battered by cyclones and drought. In late 2025, a Gen Z protest movement ignited by chronic power and water shortages culminated in the military's CAPSAT unit switching sides; President Andry Rajoelina fled and was impeached, and Colonel Michael Randrianirina was sworn in as transitional president in October 2025, pledging elections within about two years.^[2] Vanilla and a fragile tourism sector remain economic mainstays.

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Mauritius

Republic of Mauritius

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Port Louis
POPULATION	~1.3 million
AREA	2,040 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	English (French and Mauritian Creole widely used)
CURRENCY	Mauritian rupee (MUR)
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam (returned to office after a landslide November 2024 election); ceremonial President Dharam Gokhool ^[6]
INDEPENDENCE	12 March 1968 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$16 billion; per-capita ~US\$12,000 — among Africa's highest
KEY SECTORS	Financial services, tourism, textiles, sugar, information technology

Widely regarded as Africa's strongest democracy and one of its few high-income economies, Mauritius has transformed from a sugar monoculture into a diversified hub for finance, tourism, and textiles, achieving among the continent's highest living standards and human-development scores. A multi-ethnic island society of Indian, African, Chinese, and European heritage, it saw a peaceful, decisive change of government when Navin Ramgoolam's alliance won a landslide in November 2024. ^[6] A 2024 agreement with the United Kingdom is set to transfer sovereignty of the contested Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.

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Rwanda

Republic of Rwanda

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Kigali
POPULATION	~14 million
AREA	26,338 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Kinyarwanda, English, French, and Swahili
CURRENCY	Rwandan franc (RWF)
HEAD OF STATE	President Paul Kagame (de facto since 1994, president since 2000; re-elected 2024)
INDEPENDENCE	1 July 1962 (from Belgium)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$14 billion ; per-capita ~US\$1,000
KEY SECTORS	Services, tourism (mountain gorillas), tea and coffee, conference hosting, light manufacturing

Thirty years after the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, in which some 800,000 people were killed, Rwanda has become one of Africa's most striking development stories — clean, orderly, and a magnet for investment and tourism under President Paul Kagame, who was re-elected in 2024 with nearly 99 percent of the vote. Critics counter that this progress rests on tight political control and the suppression of dissent. Rwanda is also a central actor in the crisis next door, widely accused of backing the M23 rebellion in the eastern DR Congo.

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Seychelles

Republic of Seychelles

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Victoria (on Mahé)
POPULATION	~130,000 — the smallest of any African state
AREA	459 km ² (115 islands) — Africa's smallest country
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Seychellois Creole, English, and French
CURRENCY	Seychellois rupee (SCR)
HEAD OF STATE	President Patrick Herminie (elected and sworn in October 2025) ^[6]
INDEPENDENCE	29 June 1976 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$2 billion ; per-capita the highest in Africa (~US\$17,000+)
KEY SECTORS	High-end tourism, tuna fishing and processing, offshore financial services

An Indian Ocean archipelago of 115 islands, Seychelles is Africa's smallest country by both population and area, and its richest by income per head — a high-income economy built on luxury tourism and tuna. After decades dominated by one party, it has settled into competitive multiparty democracy; in the October 2025 election, Patrick Herminie of the United Seychelles party defeated the incumbent and was sworn in as president.^[6] The nation is a prominent voice on ocean conservation and the threat that rising seas pose to small island states.

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Somalia

Federal Republic of Somalia

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Mogadishu
POPULATION	~18 million
AREA	637,657 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Somali and Arabic
CURRENCY	Somali shilling (SOS)
HEAD OF STATE	President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (since 2022; his mandate, due to end in 2026, is contested amid disputes over extending it) ^[3]
INDEPENDENCE	1960 (union of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$12 billion ; per-capita ~US\$650
KEY SECTORS	Livestock, remittances, telecommunications, fishing, agriculture

After the collapse of central government in 1991, Somalia endured decades of state failure and is only gradually rebuilding federal institutions. The government controls only part of the country and remains locked in a grinding war against the al-Qaeda-linked insurgent group al-Shabaab, backed by an African Union stabilisation mission.^[3] President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's push to centralise power and revise the constitution has strained relations with federal member states as his term nears its end. The self-declared republic of Somaliland, in the north-west, governs itself but is not internationally recognised.

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South Sudan

Republic of South Sudan

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Juba
POPULATION	~11 million
AREA	619,745 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	English
CURRENCY	South Sudanese pound (SSP)
HEAD OF STATE	President Salva Kiir (since independence in 2011); the power-sharing deal with First Vice President Riek Machar collapsed after Machar's detention in 2025 ^[4]
INDEPENDENCE	9 July 2011 (from Sudan) — the world's youngest country
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$6 billion (oil-dependent and volatile)
KEY SECTORS	Oil (almost the entire economy), subsistence agriculture, livestock

The world's youngest nation, South Sudan won independence from Sudan in 2011 but plunged into civil war two years later, a conflict between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his rival Riek Machar that killed an estimated 400,000 people before a 2018 peace deal. That deal effectively collapsed in 2025 when Machar was placed under house arrest on treason charges, and UN monitors have since warned of a slide back toward full-scale war, with long-delayed elections now slated for late 2026.^[4] Almost wholly dependent on oil exported through Sudan, the country remains one of the poorest and most fragile on earth.

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Tanzania

United Republic of Tanzania

CAPITAL	Dodoma (official); Dar es Salaam (largest city & commercial capital)
POPULATION	~67 million
AREA	947,303 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Swahili and English
CURRENCY	Tanzanian shilling (TZS)
HEAD OF STATE	President Samia Suluhu Hassan (since 2021; re-elected to a full term in October 2025) ^[1]
INDEPENDENCE	1961 (Tanganyika) and 1963 (Zanzibar); union formed 1964
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$80 billion ; per-capita ~US\$1,200
KEY SECTORS	Gold and minerals, tourism (the Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar), agriculture, natural gas

A large, resource-rich country uniting mainland Tanganyika with the islands of Zanzibar, Tanzania is home to the Serengeti, Mount Kilimanjaro, and a long-stable single-party tradition under the ruling CCM. Samia Suluhu Hassan became the country's first female president in 2021 and was re-elected to a full term in October 2025 — but the vote, with opposition leaders barred or jailed, was widely condemned as fraudulent and was followed by an unprecedented and violent crackdown on protesters.^[1] The economy is among East Africa's largest, driven by gold, tourism, and emerging natural gas.

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Uganda

Republic of Uganda

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Kampala
POPULATION	~48 million
AREA	241,550 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	English and Swahili
CURRENCY	Ugandan shilling (UGX)
HEAD OF STATE	President Yoweri Museveni (since 1986; re-elected to a seventh term in January 2026) ^[1]
INDEPENDENCE	9 October 1962 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$50 billion ; per-capita ~US\$1,000
KEY SECTORS	Agriculture (coffee a leading export), services; oil production beginning via the Lake Albert fields and the EACOP pipeline

Once synonymous with the chaos of Idi Amin's 1970s dictatorship, Uganda has been ruled since 1986 by Yoweri Museveni, who brought early stability and growth but has held power for four decades, removing term and age limits along the way. He won a seventh term in the January 2026 election, which — like its predecessors — was marred by the detention and intimidation of opposition figures, including the pop-star-turned-politician Bobi Wine.^[1] Uganda hosts one of the world's largest refugee populations and is preparing to become an oil producer through the contested East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

References — Appendix D

All sources accessed June 2026. Listed in order of first citation. Volatile figures (leaders, latest population, latest GDP) are verified to these sources and are June 2026 snapshots; stable facts (capitals, areas, independence dates, currencies, languages) are from established reference knowledge. Population and GDP estimates may carry a short lag; Ethiopia's reflect a 2024 currency float.

1. Africa Center for Strategic Studies; AllAfrica; Journal of Democracy; CFR; Wikipedia (2025 Tanzanian general election and protests). *Uganda and Tanzania* (President Yoweri Museveni, in power since 1986, won a seventh term with ~71.7% in the 15 January 2026 election; President Samia Suluhu Hassan was re-elected to a full term in the contested 29 October 2025 Tanzanian vote, officially with ~97.7%, followed by a deadly post-election crackdown a government commission later linked to 518 deaths). africa-center.org · journalofdemocracy.org
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5. Al Jazeera; Wikipedia (2026 Djiboutian presidential election). *Djibouti* (President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, in power since 1999, re-elected to a sixth term on 10 April 2026 with ~97.8%, after a 2025 constitutional amendment lifted the presidential age limit). aljazeera.com
6. IPU Parline; Wikipedia (2025 Seychellois and 2024 Mauritian general elections). *Mauritius and Seychelles* (Mauritius' Navin Ramgoolam became prime minister after the Alliance for Change won 60 of 62 seats in the November 2024 election, with Dharam Gokhool as ceremonial president; Seychelles' Patrick Herminie won the September–October 2025 presidential election and was sworn in on 26 October 2025). en.wikipedia.org · data.ipu.org

END OF APPENDIX D — EAST AFRICA

Appendix E — *Country Profiles: Southern Africa* (9 states, from Botswana to Zimbabwe) — concludes the companion series in the final installment.