

Conflicts and Dialogues in and Around Urban Protected Areas: A case of Nairobi National Park

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Nairobi in National Context



Significance: Capital city

Size: 684 KM²

Location: Central Kenya

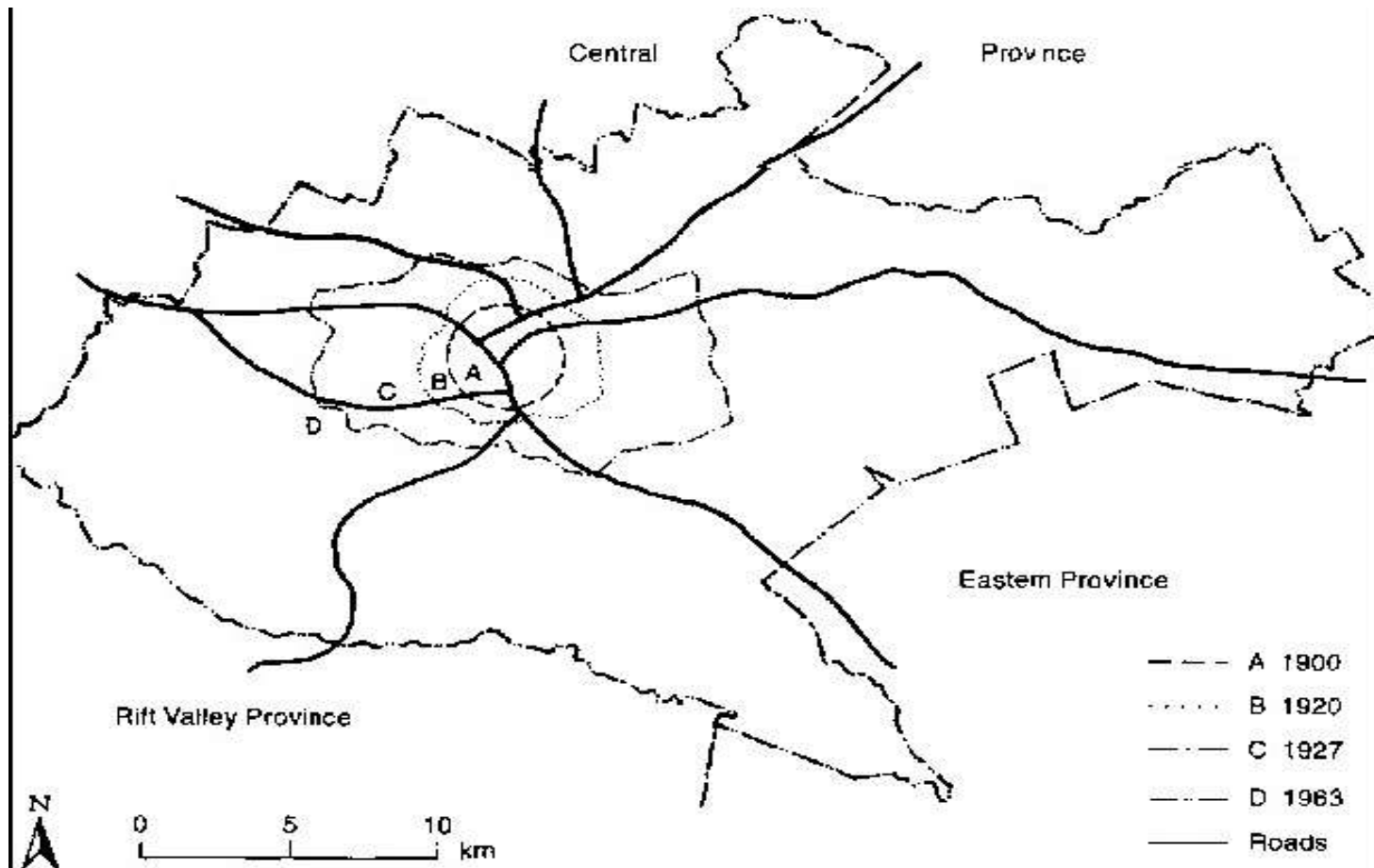
Population: Approx 4 Million

Background: Started as a railway construction camp

Economy: Produces 47% of the country's GDP

Administrative units: 8 Constituencies
1 County

Spatial Expansion Of Nairobi Over Time



Milestones in the Expansion of Nairobi

- 1896 – Kenya-Uganda Railway reached Nairobi.
- 1900 - first township boundaries a radius of 2.4 KM²
- 1919 – became a municipality (83 KM²)
- 1950 - attained city status by Royal Charter
- 1963 - boundaries changed to 684 KM²

Background Information

- Note: It is important to understand that before the city came into being, the entire area of the current city boundaries and its environs was jungle and wilderness. As the city developed over time pressure gradually increased on the animal habitat leading to delineation and gazettelement of 117 Sq. Km. as park area in 1946.
- Recent urban development, agricultural activities to the South have interfered with the migration corridors of the park.

Background Information cont'd

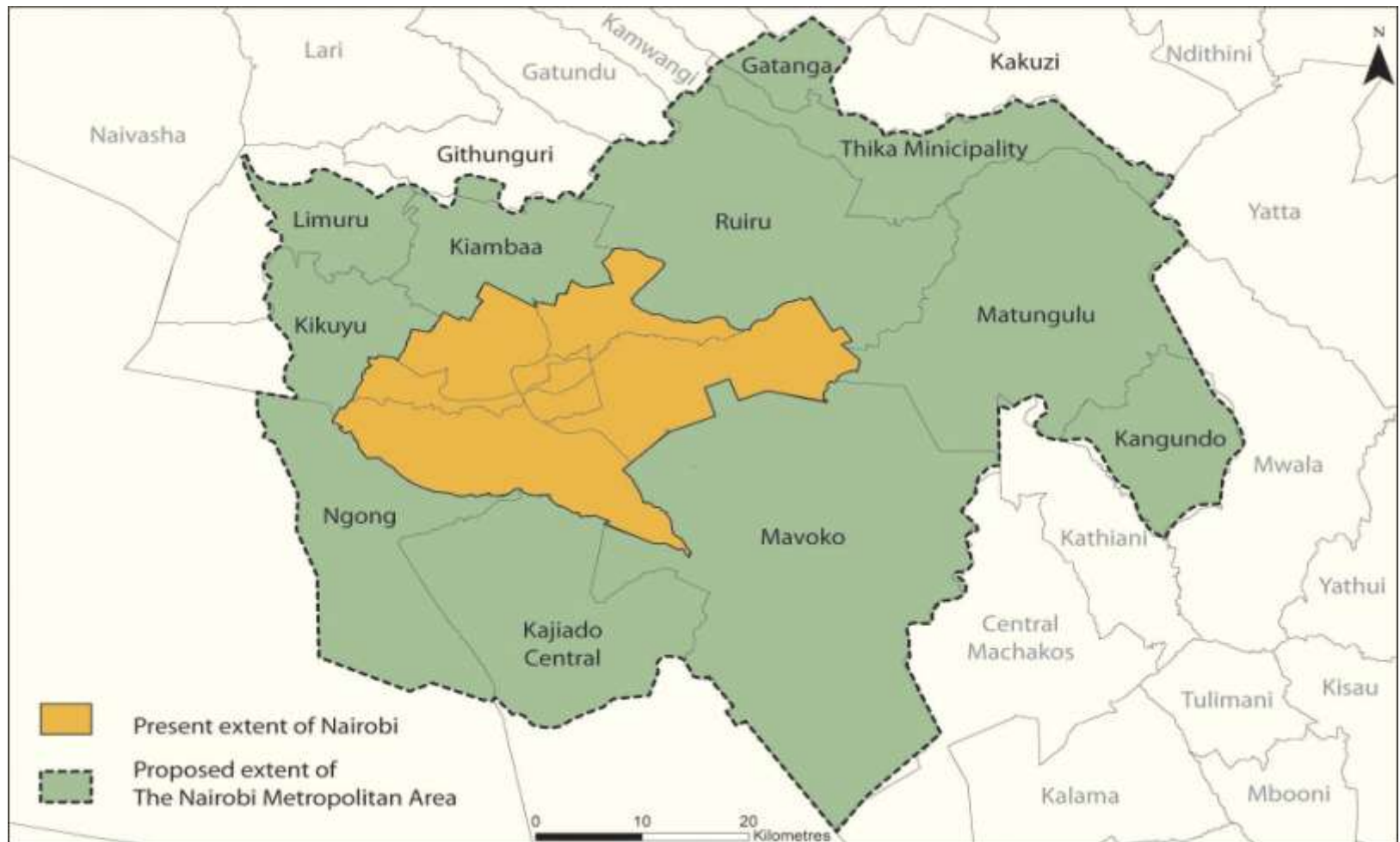
- The park is now sandwiched between the city and peri-urban developments with no room for expansion.
- Instances of wild animals eg. Leopards, lions, buffaloes etc straying into residential neighbourhoods have increased.

Nairobi's growth over the years

YEAR	SIZE	POPULATION
1900	2.4	
1906	18	11,512
1919	25	24,000
1926	84	29,864
1948	91	118,900
1963	684	342,764
1969	684	509,286
1979	684	827,775
1989	684	1,324,570
1999	684	2,143,254
2009	684	3,200,000

Source: Halliman and Morgan, 1967; Kenya Population Census, 1962, 1969, 1999

Spatial influence of Nairobi City



Nairobi National Park

- Measures 117KM² (Out of 684KM²)
- It is a Protected Game reserve
- The only Game Park within a City in the World (10KM from the City Centre)
- Open ecosystem allowing migration of wildlife (Not fenced at southern side)
- Has variety of fauna, eg Lion, Rhino, Cheater, Buffalo etc
- Has over 400 species of birds

Urbanization & the National Park

- Nairobi National Park was the first park to be gazetted in Kenya in 1946.
- 1950's and 1960's, farmers and settlers gradually took up the land around the base of the Ngong Hills-west.
- In the 1970's -development of group ranches in the south.
- In 1980's -adoption of individual private ownership of land in the south.

Challenges towards sustainable conservation

- Increase in human population
 - From 10,000 in 1906 – 4,000,000 in 2009(rate of urbanisation at 7.5%)
- Loss of dispersal & migration areas for wildlife
 - Fences, flower farming, eucalyptus farming, quarrying, Human settlements etc
- Increase in human wildlife conflict and poaching Lions, hyenas, wildebeests etc
- Habitat degradation – Pollution (air, water, noise) etc
- Existence of many pieces of legislation that impact directly or indirectly in the management of the park.(eg PPA, KWS Act, LGA, EMCA etc.

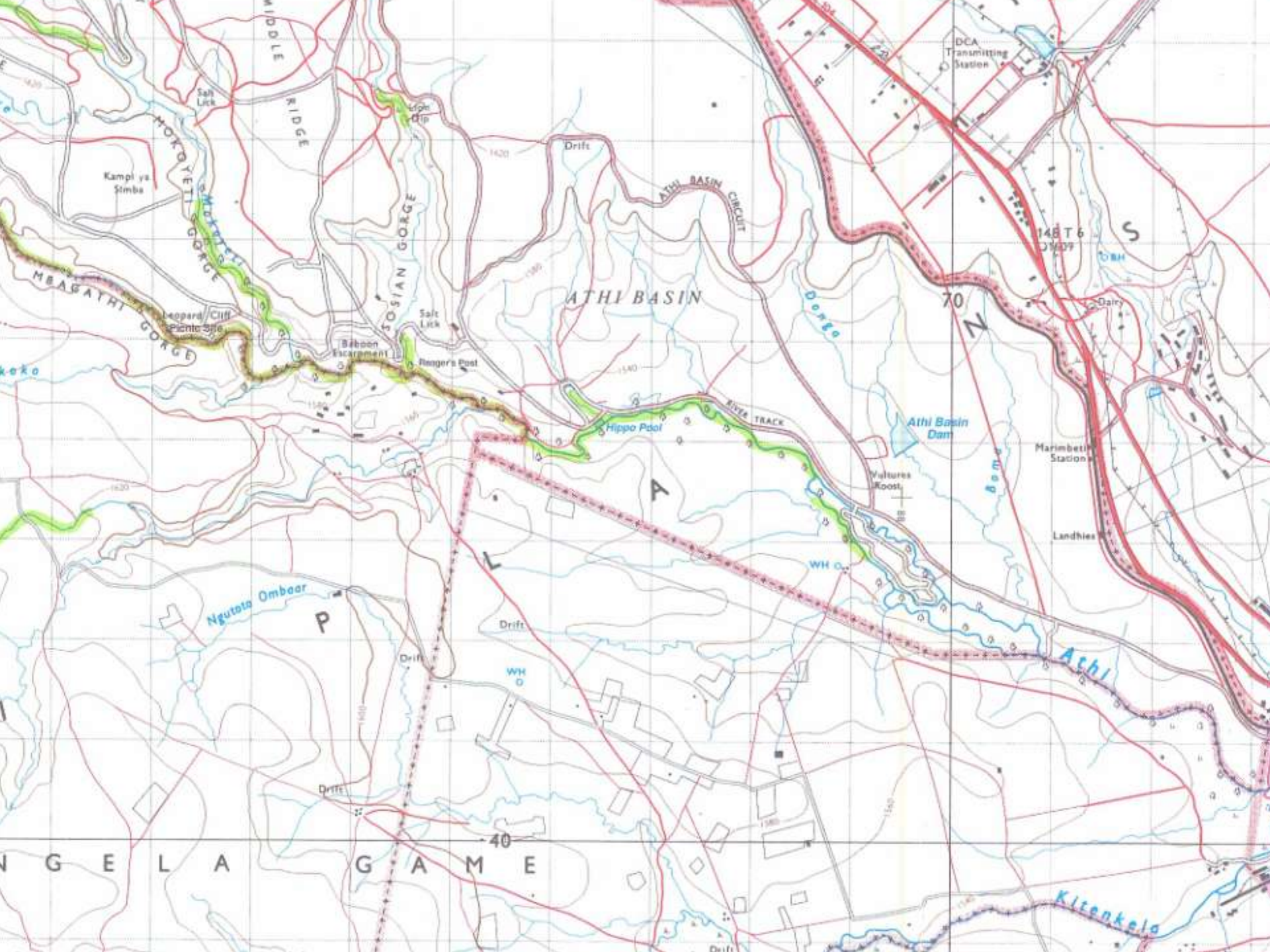
Impact of Urbanisation



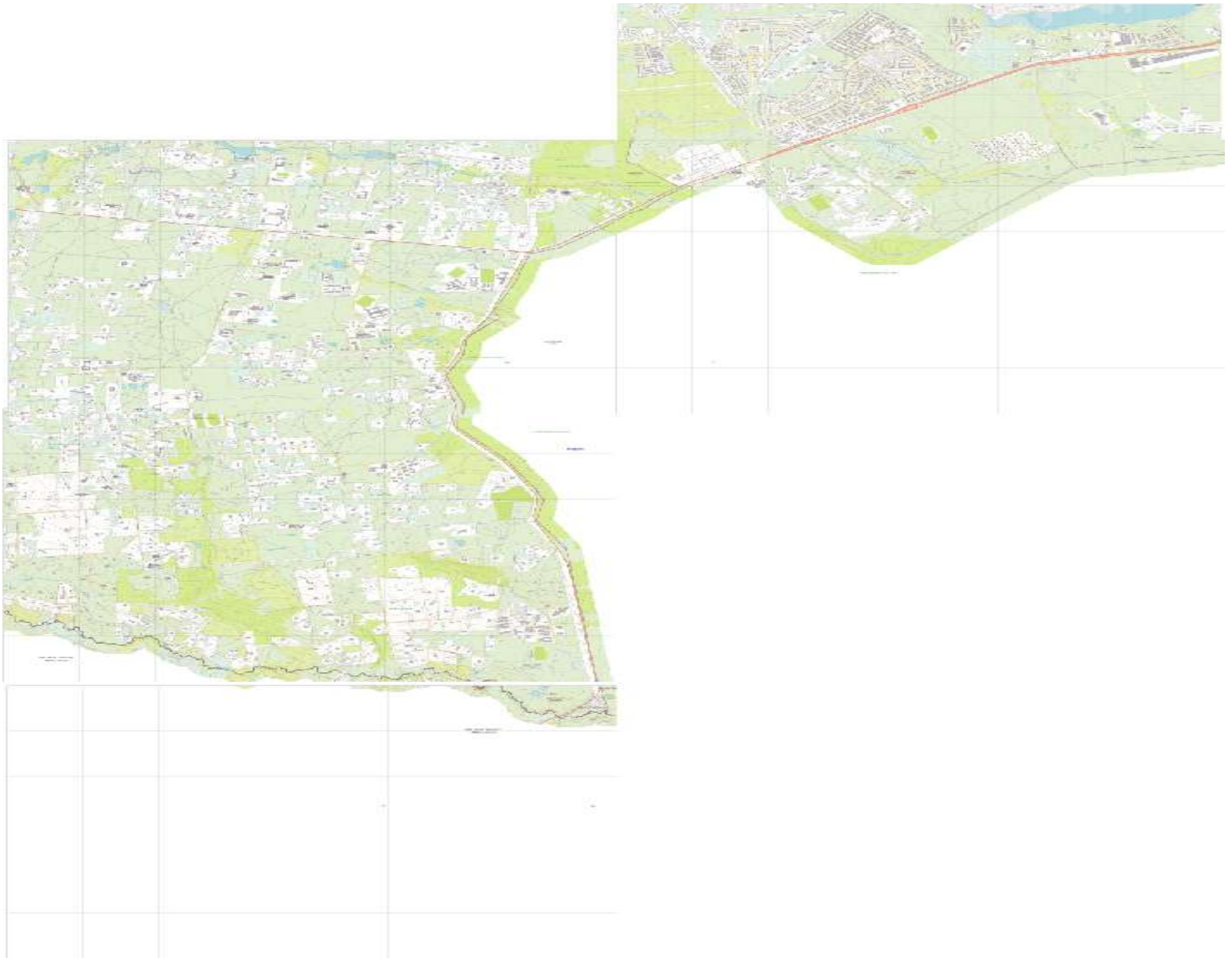
Plain grass land in the 1900's



Megacity in 21st century



Nairobi and Environs- Along Langata Road







Way forward

- Provide Policy direction for ecosystem protection and conservation
- Enhanced coordination among stakeholders for protection and conservation
- Public education on interrelations within an ecosystem
- Clear demarcation and gazettelement of the National park and dispersal areas.

Way Forward Cont'd

- Appropriate zoning and development control regulations to prevent urban sprawl and encroach
- Re-introduction of buffer zones between urban developments and the park

Who is Interfering with who?

LIVE AND LET LIVE



BUFFER ZONE



THANK YOU