AGRO-BIODIVERSITY: KENYA SITUATION

- Kenya has a rich culture of agro-biodiversity comprising c35,000 known species of animals, plants and micro-organisms

- Including 24,995 animal and 6,817 plant (excluding 299 algae spp.) fully described spp, (Government of Kenya, 2001)

- includes many species of agricultural/ food significance.

- Is spread across many ecological zones /habitats;

▶ A. *Crop biodiversity*

Food crops include maize, wheat, sorghum, millets, cassava, Irish and sweet potatoes, bananas, fruits and vegetables.

Industrial crops include Coffee, tea, pyrethrum, horticultural crops and cotton

- + diverse germplasm of vegetables, fruits, oil crops, forages, tubers, cereals and pulses.

▶ c.45 known species of wild vegetable,s

▶ c.200 wild fruit species, and

▶ c. 110 multipurpose tree species

Livestock/animal genetic resources:

  ▶ Common species include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, horses, camels, donkeys, rabbits

  ▶ emerging livestock – ostrich, guinea fowl, quail, snakes and crocodiles.

Fisheries Resources: Mainly composed of freshwater (lakes, rivers and dams), coastal and marine (Indian Ocean) and aquaculture.

▶ Common types–tilapia, African catfish, trout, olanda, carpfish, gold fish, koi fish, etc.

Forest resource

-currently at 6%.

-important ecologically, economically, socially and culturally, e.g., protection of biodiversity and water resources; + climate change mitigation/adaptation.

Loss of agro-diversity

▶ Pressure on biodiversity continues to increase causing serious threat to biodiversity

▶ Loss of habitat due to expansion of agric and L/stock grazing

▶ Currently several spp of plants and animals (159 tree spp., 71 bird spp., and 34 mammals) are threatened

▶ 1976-1991—85% and 97% of elephant and rhino pops, respectively, lost thro' poaching

▶ c.5000ha of forest reserves lost annually ➔ 50% standing volume already destroyed

▶ Climate change/variability, deforestation, pollution from agric and industry, land degradation, introduction of alien species and loss of critical habitats negatively affect livestock and fish production.

THANK YOU