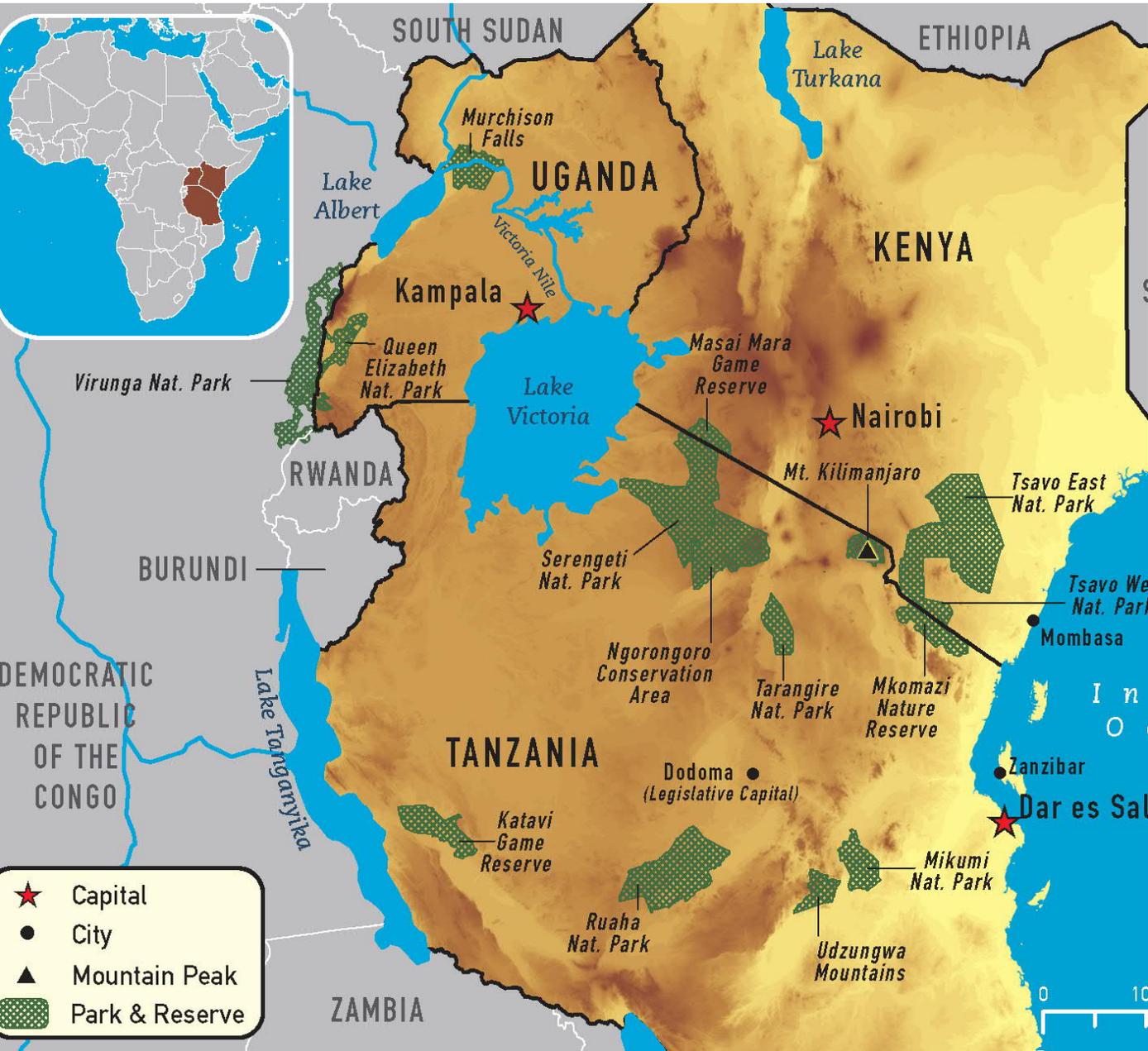


A MULTILECTAL GRAMMAR

The Western Serengeti languages

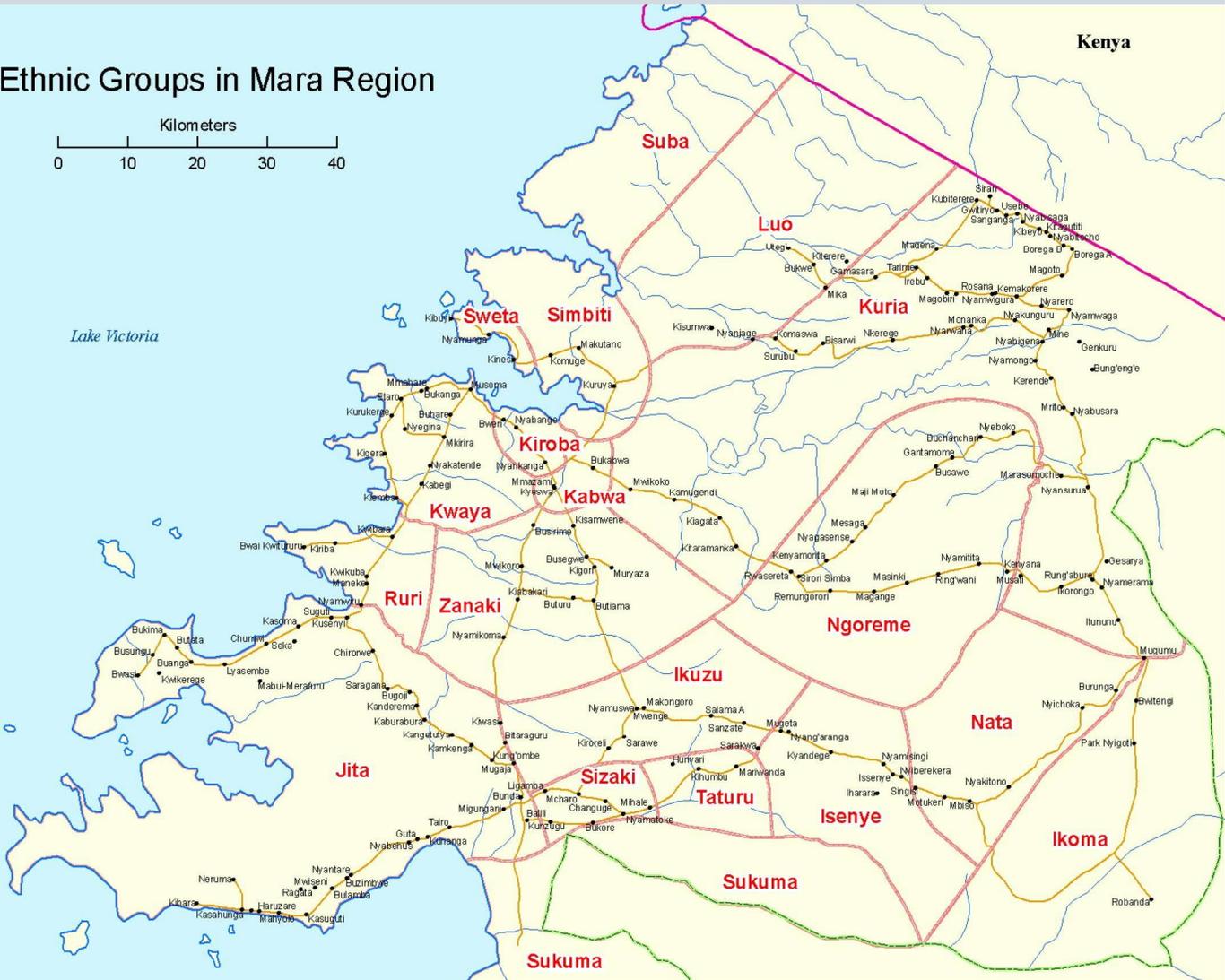
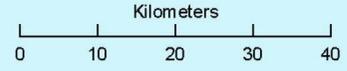
LOTTA AUNIO

11 JUNE 2021



East Africa

Ethnic Groups in Mara Region



Mara region

Mara region

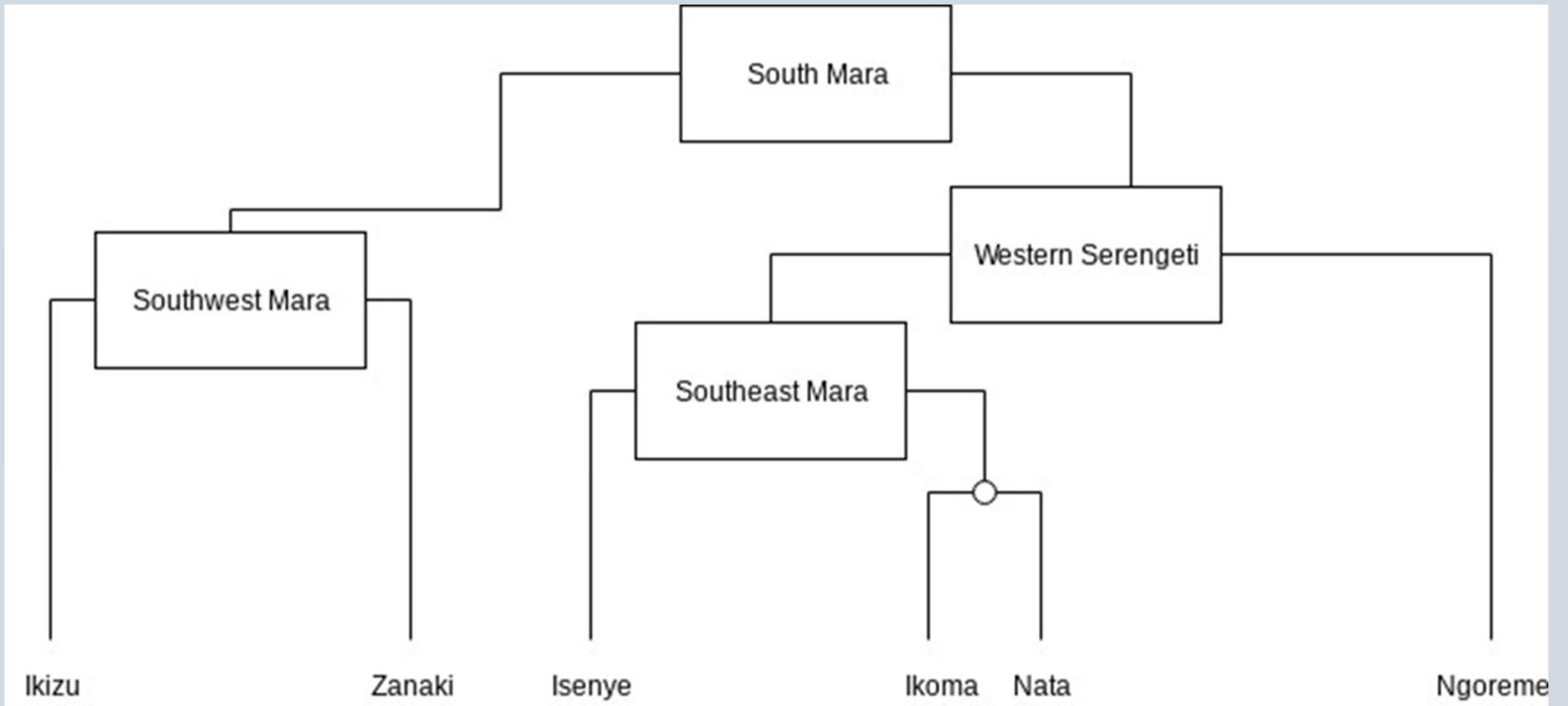
~20 Bantu languages

- JE45: Ikoma, Nata, Ishenyi
- JE401: Ngoreme
- Other JE40: Ikizu, Zanaki, Kuria, Kabwa, Simbiti
- JE20, F20

Nilotic

- Southern: Datooga
- Western: Luo
- Eastern: Maa

*Cushitic



South Mara (Roth 2018)

Western Serengeti languages (WS)

- High lexical similarity (Hill et al. 2007)
 - Over 85% between Ikoma-Nata-Ishenyi (INI)
 - 77-79% between Ngoreme and INI
- (Micro)variation in many areas, e.g.
 - Vowel phonemes & harmony
 - Tone system
 - TAM system
 - Noun classes

The “Mara project”

- Linguistic Variation as an Indicator of Historical Relations and Language Contact: A comparative grammar of four Mara Bantu languages (Tanzania) (<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/mara-project/>)
 - Funded by Kone Foundation
 - Ikoma, Nata, Ishenyi, Ngoreme

-
- A new approach to presenting multilectal grammars since none of the current ones can, e.g.
- present descriptions of a single language/variety (or some subsystem), and
 - be searched for a certain subsystem (e.g. demonstratives) or feature and have a parallel view of these in all languages involved, and
 - have the linguistic descriptions translated and presented in another language (e.g. Swahili) → access to local communities, and
 - have the examples retrieved from an annotated database.

Western Serengeti Languages — A Comparative Grammar

Ikoma ▾ Ishenyi ▾ Nata ▾ Ngoreme ▾ Combined grammars ▾  Kiswahili

Introduction

Western Serengeti Languages – A Comparative Grammar

[Ikoma](#) ▾ [Ishenyi](#) ▾ [Nata](#) ▾ [Ngoreme](#) ▾ [Combined grammars](#) ▾ [Kiswahili](#)

PHONOLOGY

1. Consonants
 - 1.1 Consonant inventory
 - 1.2 Labialisation, palatalisation, and prenasalisation
 - 1.2.1 Labialisation
 - 1.2.2 Palatalisation
 - 1.2.3 Prenasalisation
 - 1.3 Dahl's Law
 - 1.4 Other processes (Ikoma)
 - 1.4.1 Voicing dissimilation
 - 1.4.2 /p/ > /β/ (Ikoma)
 - 1.4.3 Nasal deletion
2. Vowels and syllables
 - 2.1 Vowel inventory
 - 2.2 Vowel harmony
 - 2.3 Vowel length
 - 2.4 Vowel hiatus resolution
 - 2.5 Syllable structure
3. Tone
 - 3.1 Nominal lexical tone
 - 3.2 Verbal lexical tone
 - 3.3 Grammatical tone
 - 3.4 Major tone processes

MORPHOLOGY

4. Nominal morphology
 - 4.1 Noun class prefixes
 - 4.2 Locatives
 - 4.3 Pronouns
 - 4.3.1 Substitives
 - 4.3.2 Possessives
 - 4.3.3 Demonstratives
 - 4.3.4 Others
 - 4.4 Adjectives
 - 4.5 Numerals
5. Verbal morphology
 - 5.1 Structure of verb forms
 - 5.2 Subject and object prefixes
 - 5.3 Negation
 - 5.4 Copulas
 - 5.5 Focus marking
 - 5.6 Participles and relatives
 - 5.7 Verbal derivation
 - 5.8 Tense-aspect-modality (TAM)
 - 5.9 Evidentiality
 - 5.10 Phasal polarity
 - 5.10.1 Introduction
 - 5.10.2 Still
 - 5.10.3 Not yet
 - 5.10.4 Already
 - 5.10.5 No longer
 - 5.10.6 Summary

SYNTAX

6. Invariables and clitics
7. Clause structure and types

DISCOURSE

8. Information structure



Utangulizi (Ikoma)

[👤](#) [🕒](#) [🗨️ Leave a comment](#)



Sharing

- Web design can be copied to other projects with similar needs
- Documentation and scripts openly available in GitHub

Thank you!
Asanteni!
Mogáchomi chwée!