

# Lakes System in the Great Rift Valley, Kenya

## Key facts

- Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in June 2011 at the World Heritage Committee in Paris, France, for its outstanding scenic beauty coupled with the spectacle of mass bird movements and the unique ecology of its harsh saline lake ecosystems.
- The Kenya Lakes System consists of three lakes: Lake Elementaita, Lake Nakuru and Lake Bogoria, all of which lie on the floor of the Great Rift Valley which transects Kenya North-South.
- Bird migration phenomenon is a historical, biological and ecological process. The Lakes provide a vital wintering ground for over 100 species of migratory birds, a pivotal part of one of the great bird migratory routes to the world.
- The Kenya Lakes System is home to a number of threatened and endangered species. It sustains 75% of the global population of the lesser flamingo and supports one of the major breeding colonies of the great white pelicans.

## Key quote

*“The three lakes are outstanding examples of ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of saline lakes and communities of plants and animals,”* says **Tim Badman, Director of IUCN’s World Heritage Programme.**

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## Photos

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