

The True Size of Africa

A small contribution in the fight against rampant inaccuracy, by Kai Krause

Graphic layout for visualization only (some countries are cut and rotated)
But the conclusions are very accurate: refer to table below for exact data

COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km ²
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.205
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Italy	301
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	241
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
TOTAL	30.102
AFRICA	30.221



Top 100 Countries

Area in square kilometers, Percentage of World Total
Sources: Statavica, Wikipedia, Ansover 2010

	AREA km ²	%	
1	Russia	17.098.242	11.38
2	Canada	9.960.670	6.72
3	USA	9.629.581	6.42
4	United States	9.629.581	6.42
5	Brazil	8.511.977	5.72
6	Kazakhstan	7.967.054	5.30
7	India	3.287.263	2.35
8	Argentina	2.780.400	1.93
9	Kazakhstan	2.704.360	1.89
10	Sudan	2.500.870	1.79
11	Algeria	2.381.741	1.80
12	Chad	2.344.204	1.80
13	Democratic	2.300.280	1.80
14	Saudi Arabia	2.140.000	1.48
15	Russia	1.964.375	1.42
16	Indonesia	1.860.380	1.32
17	Libya	1.750.000	1.23
18	Iran	1.660.700	1.13
19	Mongolia	1.564.110	1.10
20	France	1.260.279	0.86
21	China	1.200.000	0.86
22	Spain	1.300.000	0.86
23	Angola	1.239.700	0.86
24	USA	1.200.000	0.86
25	Saudi Arabia	1.200.000	0.86
26	Canada	1.140.000	0.79
27	Malaysia	1.300.000	0.74
28	India	1.200.000	0.74
29	Morocco	1.000.000	0.69
30	Egypt	1.000.000	0.69
31	Tanzania	945.000	0.65
32	Nigeria	923.768	0.62
33	Kenya	942.000	0.61
34	Kenya	942.000	0.61
35	Mozambique	901.000	0.54
36	Pakistan	796.000	0.53
37	Turkey	783.000	0.52
38	China	756.102	0.51
39	Zambia	752.412	0.49
40	Indonesia	1.910.000	0.49
41	Algeria	2.381.741	0.44
42	Kenya	942.000	0.43
43	France	1.260.279	0.43
44	S. Africa	1.219.000	0.42
45	USA	9.629.581	0.41
46	Malaysia	1.300.000	0.39
47	Kenya	942.000	0.33
48	Nigeria	923.768	0.33
49	Tanzania	945.000	0.33
50	Thailand	513.120	0.33
51	Spain	1.300.000	0.33
52	Indonesia	1.910.000	0.31
53	Kenya	942.000	0.31
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99	Kenya	942.000	0.31
100	Kenya	942.000	0.31
WORLD TOTAL	130.000.000	100%	



In addition to the well known social issues of illiteracy and innumeracy, there also should be such a concept as "inmappancy", meaning insufficient geographical knowledge.

A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose "1-2 billion" and "largest in the world", respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were often off by factors of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as Mercator).

A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of Africa. This single image tries to embody the massive scale, which is larger than the USA, China, India, Japan and all of Europe..... combined!