



Karibu Beads is a distributor of fair-trade Kazuri beads and buttons from Kenya. These wonderful beads are made from the clay around Mount Kenya, and are hand-made and hand-painted by the women employed in the Kazuri factory. A new addition of hand-made polymer clay beads from Nepal are also fair-trade and provide much-needed employment to women. Both companies provide a fair living wage and Kazuri has also added an onsite health clinic to the factory site to provide basic medical care for the women. Introducing these beads and buttons to the Canadian market allows me to support continued employment for Kazuri artisans, support fair-trade practices in creating high quality beads, as well all the fun of dabbling in creative beadwork and jewellery design.

I have been making jewellery for over 15 years and was introduced to Kazuri Beads when I was laid up after a very nasty surgery. Working with the beads as I recovered was so therapeutic, I really connected with the idea of the women artisans in Kenya making these wonderful beads. Once I had a chance I contacted them about getting more and was immediately interested in bringing these beads to Canada.

While most of my business is retail of the loose beads and buttons to designers and hobby beaders, I also take time to get creative with jewellery and other art using these beautiful beads. This is really my great love, to take a few beads and create something amazing.

~ Deb