

KENYA HIGH COMMISSION

JUL 3 1985

OTTAWA, CANADA

TOWARDS INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN KENYA

By

Perpetua Wangui Irimu

Faculty of Environmental Studies

and
York University

Downsview, Ontario, Canada

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A major paper submitted to the Faculty of Environmental Studies in partial fulfillment of the Degree of

MASTER IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

(ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING IN KENYA)

June, 1985

INTRODUCTION

This paper explores an alternative to present resource management in general, and for Kenya specifically. Past and present management approaches have resulted in environmental degradation in Kenya as discussed in Chapter 4. Environmental degradation coupled with increasing population size, increased affluence and a limited resource base necessitates a resource management approach that facilitates a more rational and wise use of resources to meet the range of demands being put on the resource base and at the same time maintaining environmental integrity.

This paper has been divided into two parts: part one encompasses chapters one and two and is a review of theory and concepts of resource management. Chapter one discusses the changing scene in resource management which has been a result of a change in the way society views 'resources', the rise of the conservation movement, and a greater understanding of the functioning of the natural systems. Chapter two explores the potential for integrated resource management as an alternative approach to present resource management approaches.

Part two provides an assessment of resource management in Kenya and attempts to determine the need for a more integrated resource management approach. Chapter three sets the general background of the Kenyan environment, while chapter four critiques past and present management strategies and explores the resulting ecological implications. Chapter five explores the need for integrated resource management as a means of achieving environmental planning, and also looks at the possibility and potential for its application in Kenya.