

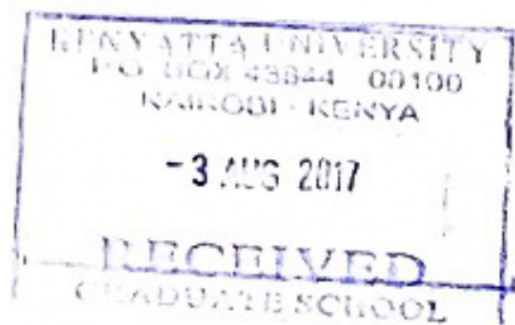
**ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUATION OF MANGUO
WETLAND, KIAMBU COUNTY**

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**A Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for the Degree of Master of
Environmental Planning and Management in the School of Environmental Studies of
Kenyatta University**

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university or for any other award.

Linda W. Kimemia

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This research project has been submitted with my approval as the University supervisor.

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ABSTRACT

Wetlands occupy approximately 6% of the Earth's surface. They support millions of people providing such goods as food and raw materials and services such as flood control, water filtration, aesthetics and recreation. Wetlands are constantly under threat and many continue to be degraded and even lost at an alarming pace, despite the critical functions they provide. In order to meet some basic and economic needs of Kenyan local communities, there has been significant exploitation of wetlands, leading to severe pressure and rapid degradation. This study was carried out in Manguo Wetland, Limuru Sub-County, Kiambu County and it aimed to support the Kenyan government's strategy of protecting wetlands by providing information of the research to the local community around the wetland as well as the relevant institutions involved in conservation and management of the wetland. The objective of this study was to examine ecological and socio-economic values of the wetland to the local community around the wetland, examine institutional arrangements in conservation and management of the wetland and develop an integrated sustainable management plan of Manguo Wetland. The study adopted a conceptual framework for integrated assessment and valuation of wetland services and a mixed method approach research design whereby, quantitative research examined the ecological and socio-economic values of Manguo Wetland whilst qualitative research examined threats facing the wetland and institutional arrangements in conservation and management of Manguo Wetland. Primary data was collected using questionnaires and interview schedules to the target population. An observation sheet was also used to collect data on Manguo Wetland. Secondary data was collected from published and unpublished information sources. The ecological and socio-economic values of Manguo wetland were calculated using the Total Economic Value method of wetland valuation. From the study findings, it can be concluded that despite the high potential for ecological and socio-economic values of Manguo Wetland, it is being degraded. This is due to the challenges it is facing, mainly being poor institutional arrangements in conservation and management of the wetland.