Nairobi Dam designed in 1946 by the Public Works Department of the British colonial government in Kenya in conjunction with the Uganda Railways and Harbours Service was to provide potable water for the residents of Nairobi City. It attracted major recreational, sporting, fishing and bird watching activities in turn being a destination for both foreign and domestic tourists. Over the years intensive encroachment of human settlements, agricultural activities, draining of raw sewer and dumping of garbage led to eutrophication and infestation of hyacinth rendering the dam unusable.

Destruction of the dam has both social-economic effects on the people living around the dam but also to over a third of Kenyan population within the Athi river water service board. The water demand for Nairobi is 650 000 m3/day compared to the production of 482 940 m3/day (WRMA 2010) while the dam has a reservoir of 98,000M3 which can help solve the problem of water scarcity. Nairobi dam forms part of the larger Athi river basin which has an area of 132,000KM2 representing about 23.7% of the total land area in Kenya. (Kiithia 1997). It serves a population of approximately 15 million approximately a third of Kenya population. Therefore efforts to ensure clean water in Nairobi dam will replicate a good health and access to clean water for over 15 million Kenyan hence reducing health expenditures and improving the standard of living of Kenyans.

The continued deterioration of the dam has largely been blamed on the over 77 sectoral laws and many bodies regulate and mandated to conserve the dam. There has been conflicts and duplication of roles leading to ineffective mode of cleaning and conserving the dam. Some of the statutory provisions have been conflicting in their minimum and maximum standard especially in riparian reserves.

The study has made efforts in recommending various measures which need to be undertaken to ensure that Nairobi regains its place in the socio-economic development of Nairobi and Kenya at large. The measures are as outlined below

- Planting and cleaning the river at the upstream to ensure that it is clean and free from contamination.
- Demolition of all the structures within the riparian reserve of the dam to and replace it with green park which can be used for recreational facilities. The park enhances the aesthetics of the dam while ensuring compatibility of land-uses. The third activity to be carried out will be the dredging of the dam to remove marshes and compacted solid waste within the dam, this will ensure that the dam is retains its pristine state and increases its capacity. Solid waste management will be developed with much emphasis on the Recycle Re-use and Reduce to ensure that the waste does not contaminate the dam. It is also envisaged to create employment.