

ABSTRACT

In Africa, approaches to the appreciation of the ecosystem abound. Most of the approaches emphasize the urgency for the conservation of the environment. Numerous reasons could be adduced for the need to preserve the African environment. In the past, scholars emphasized the fact that with the coming of colonialism, African people were displaced from their ancestral lands and trapped in areas that were not self-sustaining. The consequences of this displacement without permanent movement is what is responsible for the desertification or disappearance of what was left in the form of "sacred groves" needed to be preserved. Celia Nyamweru and Michael Sheridan suggest that "this relic theory based on the outdated notions of tropical ecology and African societies as static is now superseded by new approaches that emphasize that African ecosystems and social systems are dynamic at different temporal and spatial scales" (1). African conservationists have described, in different ways, negative dynamics occurring within the African environment that call for efforts at intervening and conserving the natural ecology. For example, "tropical deforestation" (Sheridan 9), and uncontrolled fires are held responsible for much destruction of African ecosystems.